

Sessions to straddle the state

Following is a list of the dates and places for associational Planned Growth in Giving training seminars for pastors and key laymen. Bolivar, Grenada, and Hinds-Madison have already held their sessions. Pastors and laymen are welcome to attend any session that is convenient.

March

- 21-22 FBC, Winona, Carroll-Montgomery-Webster
- 25-26 Oakhurst, Clarksdale, Riverside, Quitman, Tallahatchie
- 25-26 N. Oxford, Lafayette
- 25-26 Coffeeville, FBC, Yalobusha
- 25-26 FBC, Columbia, Marion
- 25-26 Lake Tiak O'Khata, Attala-Winston-Choctaw
- 28-29 FBC, McComb, Pike
- 29-30 FBC, Hazlehurst, Lincoln-Copiah
- 29-30 FBC, Brandon, Rankin
- 29-30 North Greenwood, Leflore-Sunflower
- 20-30 FBC, Greenville, Washington

April

- 1-2 FBC, Vicksburg, Warren
- 1-2 FBC, Starkville, Oktibbeha and Mt. Vernon, Lowndes-Noxubee-Clay
- 1 FBC, Carthage, Leake
- 1-2 FBC, Booneville, Prentiss
- 1-2 Corinth, Jasper
- 1-2 FBC, Amory, Monroe
- 2 Baptist Center, Panola
- 5-6 Holmes Junior College, Holmes
- 8-9 FBC, Bruce, Calhoun
- 8-9 Marshall Association
- 11-12 FBC, Yazoo City, Yazoo, Humphreys - Sharkey - Issaquena
- 15-16 Monticello, Lawrence
- 18-19 Baptist Center, Jeff Davis and Collins, Covington
- 18-19 FBC, Ripley, Tippah, Benton
- 19-20 Assn. Office, Scott

April

- 22-23 15th Avenue, Meridian, Lauderdale - Newton
- 22-23 Harrisburg, Tupelo, Lee
- 22-23 Colonial Hills, Northwest
- 22-23 FBC, Gulfport, Gulf Coast
- 22-23 FBC, Lucedale, George-Greene
- 22-23 Meadville, Franklin
- 29-30 FBC, Philadelphia, Neshoba - Kemper
- 29-30 Simpson Association Office, Simpson

May

- 10-11 Smith Association, Assn. Center
- 16-17 FBC, Gautier, Jackson
- 16-17 FBC, Corinth, Alcorn
- 20-21 Perry
- 20-21 Baptist Center, Clarke
- 20-21 FBC, Laurel, Jones
- 20-21 FBC, New Albany, Union County
- 20-21 Lebanon
- 24-25 FBC, Purvis, Lamar
- 27-28 Port Gibson, Union
- 27-28 Tylertown, Walthall

June

- 7-8 Tishomingo
- 16-17 West Heights, Pontotoc
- 20-21 Trinity, Fulton, Itawamba
- 21-22 FBC, Waynesboro, Wayne
- 24-25 Chickasaw
- 24-25 Associational Office, Pearl River

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 21, 1985

Published Since 1877

Ray sees "revival fervor"

Mississippians train for Planned Growth in Giving

By Tim Nicholas

The first impact of a developing systematic plan for church giving "is not a financial but a spiritual excitement," according to the engineer of the plan.

"over and over and over again and we never solve them." He cited yet unrepaired losses of strength for both British and American Baptists relative to controversies over biblical in-

with all the negative reports coming out in the newspapers . . . He quickly added that "one thing this conference has done for me is that it has given me a greater understanding of the Cooperative Program and how it works and why. It changes some of the feelings."

"We know we have to do it (cooperate), but how, without forfeiting our doctrinal positions," said Moore. "We can't put missions on one side and doctrine on another side. We've got to realize one of our doctrines is missions."

Moore said he always believed that the tithe was only the beginning point in giving. "I will go back and lead the seminar and get the churches to see that the Cooperative Program is not just me and my views, my doctrines, my positions—but it's all of us coming together with the purpose of making sure that a lost and dying world has a chance to hear the gospel."



John Allen, pastor of First Church, Richton, and Kenneth Moore, pastor of Enon Church, Walthall County, talk with Cecil Ray, national director of the Planned Growth in Giving campaign which held a regional training session at Gulfshore recently. Allen and Moore are among a group of Mississippians who will be leading associational training sessions for PGG.

Cecil Ray, national director of Planned Growth in Giving, a 15-year plan designed to lead Southern Baptist churches and individuals to corporately make commitments to increase their giving to missions, was at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly March 4-6, to train leaders in the PGG plan.

The Gulfshore meeting gathered individuals from Mississippi and some from the surrounding states to train them to go back to their associations to teach pastors and key laypersons from each church how to lead church-wide PGG seminars.

Ray, in an interview, said that he has seen "a revival fervor" in his first year on the job as PGG director. He said that people, presented with the challenge of a planned increase in giving, feel the spiritual awareness before they realize that missions is helped, too.

"Unapologetically, the appeal is to draw closer to the likeness of Christ as a giver," said Ray, who formerly was executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

In one of the group sessions, Ray told the teacher trainers that "people who ignore their history get abused by their future."

He said that some of the same basic issues are confronted by Baptists

errancy that Southern Baptists are haggling over today.

And he noted that "direct appeals and designated giving continue to hold an appeal though (they don't) work as well. Facts are that the most efficient dollars are Cooperative Program dollars."

Ray said that current controversies include insisting that cooperation must be based on total agreement. "The Cooperative Program," Ray said, "doesn't look like you, it doesn't look like me, it looks like us." He added, "One of the greatest myths going around today is that we were made strong by cooperation and we can remain strong without it."

David Michael, Mississippi director of PGG, and a consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department, told the Baptist Record that even a number of those who have committed themselves to lead seminars in associations were still struggling with the idea of new commitments. One of those struggling was Kenneth Moore, pastor of Enon Baptist Church in Walthall County.

"I had some negative feelings about the Cooperative Program," said Moore. "My church supports it, but

What is Planned Growth in Giving?

Planned Growth in Giving is a 15-year commitment to growth in Christian giving. Materials produced by the SBC Stewardship Commission note that "The plan anticipates increased percentage giving by individuals, churches, and state Baptist conventions, and enlarged missions outreach." Southern Baptists voted to support this campaign at their 1983 convention in Pittsburgh.

The campaign has two basic purposes—one, to help individuals and churches "plan" to grow in their giving habits; and two, to help pay the cost of Bold Mission Thrust.

Bold Mission Thrust is a challenge Southern Baptists gave themselves to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

The Cooperative Program is the voluntary, unified giving program whereby the 14 million Southern Baptists can participate in this bold plan.

The work of nearly 7,000 home and foreign missionaries, six seminaries, and numerous training organizations are funded through the Cooperative Program.



Evangelistic singing

Jackson music evangelist Tom Larrimore sings during a session of the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference at First Church, Greenville, while Byron Cutrer, minister of music at the host church, adds his own private direction in the background. Story begins on page three. An editorial is on page two. More photos are on page 11. (Photo by Don McGregor)

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Evangelism's inspiration

Evangelism conferences, with the passing of years, have become the favorite meetings of Southern Baptists. This is true all across the Southern Baptist Convention, and it is true in Mississippi.

Mississippi's conference, held last week in Greenville at First Baptist Church, was not as well attended as in past years, but that was to be expected since it had to be postponed from its original February date due to a wide-spread ice storm.

Of course, in Mississippi our meeting is not purely an evangelism conference. Bible conferences were added several years ago. It is not likely that the addition of Bible study either helped or hindered the attendance. People are going to attend the evangelism conferences. They may or may not attend the Bible conferences once they get there. The Bible conferences, however, do offer a change in pace from a steady diet of sermons.

And they seem to be pretty well attended as long as they are offering Bible study. This year evidently there was at least one added, "God's Call To Give," that was conceived to be more promotional than it was Bible study. For at least one of the sessions no one attended.

Be that as it may, Evangelism Conferences continue to draw enthusiastic audiences. In Texas recently the one for that state drew 20,000. Even for Texas, where there are more Baptists than there are people in Mississippi, 20,000 is a big attendance.

It can be better understood when it is noted that a comparable attendance in Mississippi would be 5,000. We would have to alternate the sites between our two coliseums in Jackson and Biloxi.

Nevertheless, we do have good at-

tendances. And those who attend enjoy the meetings.

The reason is two-fold and simple. It is the inspiration and the music. And the music, of course, is inspirational. When and if we move away from the inspirational we are tampering with the successful formula. Inspiration has always been the genius of evangelism conference interest. If, perchance, we fail to understand the essence of inspiration, we surely could lose the interest in the conferences.

It has nothing to do with practicality. It is recharging batteries; it is filling cups in danger of becoming empty; it is inspiration—which is being in touch with God.

We had it this year. The names were not as well known, perhaps, as has been the case in some past years; but they were effective speakers. I had never heard of Malcolm McDow before, yet we found we once lived in the same neighborhood in Waco, Texas, about three blocks apart, though we were not there at the same time. My family had already moved on to the open spaces of the cattle country in West Texas before he got there. McDow was inspirational.

The master story teller, Jack Stanton, always brings inspiration with him, though he would be quick to point out that he is only an instrument, not the source.

The very able Charles Fuller was a new name for our evangelism conference this year, though the name itself is not new. He has been well known as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., for a number of years and this year is serving as chairman of the critical SBC committee on boards. His messages were challenging.

Ron Lewis was dynamic. Bill Glass, the former football player who now has a ministry to prison inmates, was simple but tremendously effective.

As fine and as inspirational as those speakers are, and as effective as they are in communicating with the crowds, there is something that may indeed be more the ingredient that makes the evangelism conferences

jell, that makes them the watering trough where a minister can fill his soul and get a fresh start.

It is the music.

It could be that they would come for the music if for no other reason. There is something about music that fills the soul when nothing else can. It is the universal language that all can understand.

Baptists, perhaps, have perfected the art of church music to a greater extent than any other denomination. That doesn't mean that we particularly have a higher form of music than any other church body. We do have participation to a greater extent on a more meaningful basis than any other group. And surely Mississippi has managed to wind up with more than its share of top-quality, dedicated, scintillating musicians.

Keyboard artists form the nucleus for this ministry, and Dot Pray on the organ and Irene Martin on the piano have formed a team that has been providing the basis for outstanding music at evangelism conferences for several years. As the years go along others are added as the opportunity arises. For instance, this year Greenville musicians were added as was Edwin Sudduth, minister of music at Central Church, Brookhaven. Then Alice Kathryn Turner of Greenville played the harp, and Edd Brashier of Carthage played the trumpet.

And always the vocal soloists and the ensembles were well received. One ensemble this year was an impromptu group that was formed after the conference started, but it included some pretty high-powered musicians and indicated the tremendous talent that is to be found at these conferences. The group included music evangelist Kathryn Barfield of Yazoo City; Mike Harland, music director at Parkway Church, Greenville; his wife, Teresa; Ann Colbert, music evangelist from Forest who wrote one of the three songs that the group sang and actually sort of commandeered the group; Gaye Sikes, organist at First Church, Yazoo City, who has compiled a book of arrangements for



Byron Cutrer, minister of music, directs the choir of First Church, Greenville. Keith Wilkinson, sitting, presided at that session of the Evangelism-Bible Conference.

organ that has been published by Broadman; Deanna Garletts of Greenville; Byron Reid of Greenville, whose wife was one of the keyboard artists; Byron Cutrer, minister of music at First Church, Greenville; who served as recruiting officer; and Mike Smith, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson.

Smith, who arranged one of the three songs, is a composer, arranger, conductor, and top-flight pianist who was making a mark in Texas as minister of music at First Church, Conroe, when he came to Mississippi. Now he is enriching the quality of our music scene.

But the congregational singing, that is something else. Whether people sing better at evangelism conferences or whether it is the better singers who attend them, there is nothing to compare to the congregational singing at those conferences. The people have gone there for inspiration. They have been inspired. And they let it be known through their singing. They let the music flow through their souls, and it is a spiritual feast just to listen to it and to be a part of it.

Perhaps I am letting prejudices show, but surely they are excusable.

My call into special service came during a secular newspaper career as I served voluntarily as music director in a small church in West Texas. And as I went to the seminary and then began a career with Baptist state papers, I served for 15 or 16 years as part-time music director in churches until the demands of being editor closed out that phase of my life. The last one was at a little church in Mesquite, Texas, when I was elected editor in California. Even then I managed to get in a brief stint as interim director at Central Church in Fresno. Lasting friendships were formed with those pastors and some choir members, and it was a phase of service that I loved dearly.

My earliest hero was evangelist singer Joe Trussell of Texas. I wanted to be like him. I never made it, but I still remember the influence he had on a young life.

So much for that, but I do understand the interest in singing and in the music generally. Dan Hall does a magnificent job in pulling it all together.

As do Guy Henderson and Keith Wilkinson in overseeing the entire program.

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515 Mississippi Street

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor

Editor

Tim Nicholas

Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams

Editorial

Associate

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell O. Cork, Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian; Bruce Hill, Lexington, vice-chairman; Owen Lusk, Columbia; Robert H. Jackson, Brandon; Dan Thompson, Harpersville; chairman. Ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

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Charles Pickering

President

Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Guest opinion . . . Help from the "mission natives"

By Beverly Tinnin

I had boarded a troop transport in San Diego headed for Noumea, New Caledonia, and the war that was raging in the Pacific. We spent 18 days zigzagging to escape possible enemy submarines en route. Daily orientation lectures were given the company of navy and marine pilots of which I was a part. One session in particular caught my interest. The intelligence officer was briefing us on areas of the Solomon Islands where possible rescue for pilots who were shot down could be attempted. In "matter of fact" terminology he said these were locations of mission compounds before the war (WWII). He said other

natives who were referred to as "plantation natives" would turn American airmen over to the occupying Japanese, but "mission natives" would hide and try to make contact with American ships and facilitate escape. The lecturer made no attempt to explain the reasons for the differences between the two groups of natives.

After a few weeks in Noumea in a "pilot's pool" I received orders to join VMSB341, a marine dive bombing squadron. I was dispatched to Efate, the southern most island of the New Hebrides. Here, in training maneuvers, I was absorbed as a

replacement and prepared to move up into combat in the Solomon Islands.

While on Efate a Navy dentist invited me one day to accompany him to a mission hospital compound, where he would perform some dental work. I gladly went along. We took a small navy "crash boat" out to an island located about half a mile off the mainland. Here we found a densely populated native village with neat houses and well drained dirt streets. I could see Singer sewing machines and other useful household items from the civilized world.

It was later explained to us that years earlier for sanitation and

malaria prevention the native population had been moved off the mainland. They went ashore to work their gardens and labor in coconut plantations but returned to their homes and family each evening. A missionary had planned and directed the migration to the island.

The hospital was truly remarkable. A third generation missionary who was a fully qualified doctor was in charge. He told us how his grandfather, George Paton, had come from Scotland to the New Hebrides. His father had carried on the work, and now he had assumed responsibility.

(Continued on page 5)

SBC forum plans pre-convention slate

SBC Forum, the newest pre-convention meeting for messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention, will be held Monday, June 10, from 1:30-5 p.m. in the West Hall of the Dallas Convention Center. Begun last year in Kansas City, the Forum offers in its second year an expanded program and doubled seating capacity.

Featured speakers and their messages include James Flamming, pastor, First Church, Richmond, "Orthodoxy of Love;" Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Seminary,

Hunger cited as 'epidemic'

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A study indicating hunger in America has reached "epidemic proportions" should remind Southern Baptists and other concerned Christians "we must look across town as well as overseas" in responding to human need, Robert Parham says.

Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, said he feels the recently-released findings of the Physician Task Force on Hunger in American "present clear and convincing evidence millions of Americans are going hungry in the midst of abundance."

The report follows a year-long investigation by researchers who traveled back roads, opened refrigerators and searched out "the human face of hunger." The group of prominent doctors and public health experts from across the country reviewed previous studies on hunger and compiled additional data through "hundreds and hundreds" of interviews and field studies.

Despite the nation's economic recovery, the task force found that up to 20 million Americans "may be hungry at least some period of time each month." The study defined hungry persons as those who are chronically unable to purchase an adequate diet as well as those who periodically run out of food altogether.

Among the study's findings:

—Second Harvest, an umbrella organization, notes a 700 percent increase in food distribution since 1980. Begun in 1967, Second Harvest is a nationwide network of 74 food banks.

—Clinics in poor areas are reporting cases of kwashiorkor and marasmus, two diseases of advanced malnutrition usually associated with the Third World.

—The U.S. infant mortality rate is worse than that of other industrial nations and appears to be leveling off instead of declining. The 1983 infant mortality rate was 10.9 per 1,000 live births, which is "behind that of comparably wealthy nations." In New York's central Harlem, the rate is as high as 25.6 per 1,000.

—From 1982 to 1985, \$12.2 billion was cut from federal food stamps and child nutrition programs.

Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

"Integrity in Proclaiming the Gospel;" Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, "The Doctrine of First Things;" Cecil Sherman, pastor, Broadway Church, Fort Worth, "To Trust Again;" and William Self, pastor, Wieuca Road Church, Atlanta, "What They Don't Teach You at Baptist Preacher's School."

CBS Television news analyst Bill Moyers is also committed to speak if not called away on special assignment. Presiding for the second time is Gene Garrison, pastor, First Church, Oklahoma City.

Featured musicians include Christian artists Cynthia Clawson, Ken Medema, Darrell Adams, and Bob Bailey, and Foreign Mission Board executive vice-president William O'Brien. Bill James, minister of music, Wilshire Church, Dallas, will direct the afternoon's music.

Organizers of the meeting are continuing a Monday night fellowship for SBC messengers begun in Kansas City. This year's reception will be held in the Reunion Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 7-10 p.m.

John Hewett, pastor, Kirkwood Church, St. Louis, and Forum publicity coordinator, called the meeting "a positive response to the need expressed by pastors and other messengers for an affirming, celebrative worship experience before the Convention."

He added: "Messengers seeking personal encouragement, biblical challenge, and Christian fellowship will find SBC Forum a breath of fresh air in the pre-convention schedule. Ours is a positive agenda: we are pro-Convention, pro-missions, pro-Cooperative Program, pro-Baptist colleges, pro-seminaries, and pro-local church. We see our goal as affirming the stated purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention, which calls all Southern Baptists to 'promote Christian missions, Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which further the Kingdom of God.'"

Program committee for SBC Forum includes Henry Crouch, pastor, Providence Church, Charlotte; Bill Bruster, pastor, Central Church, Knoxville; and Hewett.

Southern Baptists asked to pray May 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists, "and Christians everywhere" have been urged to make "every day" a day of prayer, with special emphasis on May 2.

President Ronald Reagan, following a tradition begun in the revolutionary war and reestablished in 1952, has declared May 2 the National Day of Prayer.

The Executive Committee of the 14.3-million member Southern Baptist Convention, at its February meeting, voted unanimously to "concur in the action" and encouraged "all churches and agencies aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention to give special emphasis to the importance of prayer in our relationship with Almighty God."

Thursday, March 21, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

The Baptist Record

Evangelism-Bible Conference

Speakers wonder why Baptists do not witness

By Don McGregor

Mississippi Baptists last week finally had their annual Evangelism-Bible Conference, the one that was delayed by a massive February ice storm.

The site was the same—First Church, Greenville. The program personalities were almost the same. Only one speaker had to cancel. The crowd may have been a bit smaller than would have been the case in February without the ice, but still the lower floor of the 1,200-seat Greenville church was comfortably filled.

The time frame of the conference was changed from a Monday night beginning and Wednesday noon ending to a Monday afternoon kickoff with the conclusion on Tuesday evening. A straw poll during the conference indicated that those attending the sessions preferred the arrangement used this year. The number of sessions, five, remained the same.

There were six speakers for the plenary sessions, some speaking twice and one speaking three times. There were eight conferences, some led by plenary session speakers. In addition there were two periods of special music in each of the five sessions and vocal benedictions on two occasions.

Music prominent

As is always the case, music played a prominent part during the program.

Each session was initiated with keyboard praise, generally a 15-minute concert of piano and organ music. Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with the Church Music Department and organist at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and Irene Martin, music evangelist from Forest and pianist at First Church, Richland, were presented in each of the concerts and were the accompanists for the congregational singing throughout the conference. Others who participated in the concerts were Nancy Riddle, a pianist at First Church, Greenville; Edwin Sudduth, minister of music at Central Church, Brookhaven; and Sharon Reid, also a pianist at First Church, Greenville. In addition, Edd Brashier, minister of music at First Church, Carthage, presented trumpet numbers before the first session; and Alice Kathryn Turner, organist, at First Church, Greenville, played the harp.

Six of the eight vocal soloists were music evangelists. They were Cecil Harper of Jackson, Bobby Shurden of Drew, Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson, W. C. Rainey Jr. of Petal, Denise Riley of Jackson, and Tom Larrimore of Jackson. Frank Stovall, a soloist, is director of the music department at Mississippi College; and Eddie Keyser, the other soloist, is

a student at the University of Mississippi.

Kathryn Barfield, a music evangelist from Yazoo City, was scheduled for a solo but instead asked Jimmy Boyd, also a member of First Church, Yazoo City, to join her in a duet.

New songs

Ann Colbert, a music evangelist from Forest, also scheduled for a solo, enlisted an ensemble to aid her in presenting three new songs to the conference. The three songs, recently published by Message Music Publishing Company of Jackson, were "Lift Up the Name of the Lord," by Billy Causey, son of the pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson; "Sonshine Christians," a song written by Mrs. Colbert and inspired by a piece written by Anne McWilliams, editorial staff member at the Baptist Record, and printed in the Baptist Record; and "The Desert Shall Blossom like the Rose," written by Irene Martin, who accompanied the presentation. Michael T. Smith, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, arranged the latter song and sang in the ensemble that presented the three.

In addition, there were presentations by three choirs. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen, an ensemble of church musicians in the state, was scheduled for the first program and sang during the conference last week. The group was smaller than would have been the case in February because of individual scheduling problems, but about 20 members of the group were able to participate.

The group was directed by Lee Gordon, minister of music at Van Winkle Church, Jackson; and Michael T. Smith was the accompanist.

Other choirs were the First Church, Greenville choir, directed by Byron Cutrer, minister of music at First Church, and the Washington Association Choir, directed by Mike Harland, minister of music at Parkway Church, Greenville.

Vocal benedictions

The vocal benedictions were by Elaine Pounds of Picayune and by Mike and Teresa Harland of Greenville.

The theme for the conference was "Follow Jesus."

Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, almost missed his initial message for the conference because of airline scheduling problems. He arrived, however, just in time to walk up to the pulpit and begin speaking. In speaking on "The Needs of the Helpless," McDow said that "people all around us are trying, in the midst of their devastation, to escape their hopeless situations." "This accounts," he said, "for the unbelievable use of alcohol and drugs and the embracing of humanism."

Christians get in the way of the lost coming to Christ, he charged, and included preachers among those sometimes causing such problems.

"When it takes 38 of us to baptize one, we are being hurtful to the cause of Christ," he declared.

"One of the greatest problems we

(Continued on page 7)



A new Testament designed for use in the Good News America Crusade in 1986 is discussed by, left to right, Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary; Jack Stanton, evangelist from Bolivar, Mo.; and Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists. The Good News America Crusade will involve simultaneous revivals all across the nation.

"Divine appointments" mark missionaries' time in Sidon

By Art Toalston

MEDIA, Pa. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Stephanie Bethea left south Lebanon before Israeli troops ended their 32-month occupation of the area in February.

The Betheas had worked in the port city of Sidon for a year and a half until mid-January. Now living with Mrs. Bethea's parents in Media, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, they hope to return to Sidon with their three children after a six-month leave of absence.

"If we had stayed, I don't know what would have happened," Bethea said.

In mid-February thousands of armed Shiite Muslims staged a demonstration in Sidon for an Islamic republic in Lebanon. They tore down Lebanese flags and plastered posters of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini over those of the nation's president, Amin

Gemayel, leader of the Maronite Catholic or so-called Christian faction in Lebanon. Gemayel had visited Sidon the day before.

Dozens of Lebanese and Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israeli forces have been assassinated in the region.

But it wasn't the threat of violence that compelled the Betheas to seek a leave of absence. In fact, they made their decision several days before Israel announced the departure of its forces, although rumors of the military exodus had been floating around for more than a year.

"We've been through difficult times in the past with complete assurance from the Lord that it was okay to stay," Bethea said. Leaving was "the leading of the Holy Spirit," he explained, and "we didn't understand why at the time."

He acknowledged most people "don't really understand" such supernatural talk. "They think you have to have some visible or logical reason to leave. If we had operated on that kind of mentality, we'd be dead, quite literally."

"There have been so many times that we would have been killed in Lebanon if we had not been sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, even to the point of taking a turn or stopping the car or going home or not leaving the house. There hasn't been more than a few days that we have not heard or seen some kind of shooting around us."

Often the warfare has involved Israeli forces and Muslims opposed to the Israeli occupation. Other times shooting breaks out between Muslims and Catholics.

Bethea went to Sidon along with a young Lebanese minister, Waleed Harmouche, to revive the Baptist church there, which had dwindled to seven members. Now attendance ranges from 30 to 40 each Sunday.

The church is the only Baptist congregation in territory formerly oc-

cupied by the Israelis, although believers gather in several other villages for Bible study and prayer.

"I don't think there's a direct threat against the believers themselves," Bethea said, but they've faced numerous threats and instances of harassment from both Catholics and Muslims. "They're living in a state of resistance, not of real persecution."

Traveling to various locations, the Betheas sometimes felt they were "going from one divine appointment to the next."

"Some days, we'd feel we were to stay home, and from mid-morning until 11 o'clock at night, people would come to the house to talk about the Lord and stay anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours. They would get up and leave and someone else would step in. It was almost like the Lord was ushering them in and ushering them out. We'd have enough time for lunch or supper or a quick rest, then we'd start again."

"We feel privileged to be the ones chosen to be in Lebanon in the midst of shooting, to see the Holy Spirit do this kind of thing. We were living in kind of a tension between a very intolerable living circumstance and an almost constant joy of seeing the Holy Spirit touching lives—Muslim, Christian, and Jewish."

Leadership training—"to raise up leaders who can do the job better than we can in their own culture"—has been Bethea's emphasis.

The missionary said his co-worker Harmouche, a recent graduate of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in east Beirut, is able to carry on the ministry in his absence, along with base of family men and young men who will stay in the church and help it grow. The church has sent one young man to another area in south Lebanon as a missionary, while another has enrolled at the seminary.

Toalston writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Workshop to offer disciple training

Three DiscipleLife Workshops are scheduled in Brookhaven, Hattiesburg, and Biloxi late this month. The workshops are designed for youths and youth leaders "to help youths become better leaders," according to Robin Nichols, youth consultant in the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The workshops will take place at First Church, Brookhaven, March 25; at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, March 26; and at First Church, Biloxi, March 28. Each will convene at 7 p.m. Some earlier promotion from the department listed the Hattiesburg meeting as taking place at First Church. That was in error.

Wayne Jenkins of the youth Church Training Section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be program leader for the three workshops.

1985 Gulfshore schedule

Below is the 1985 summer schedule of conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian. For details concerning conference programs, write the person named at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. For details concerning registration for conferences, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571.

Reservations are available for most conferences and Frank Simmons, Gulfshore manager, notes that the reservation deposit this year is \$30 per person. In-state groups have priority for reservations until April 15, when out-of-state requests will be filled.

May 13-17 ... I Senior Adult Conference ... (CT) Mose Dangerfield
May 17-19 ... Single Adult Conference ... (CAC) Paul Jones
May 20-22 ... II Senior Adult Conference ... (CT) Mose Dangerfield
May 23-25 ... III Senior Adult Conference ... (CT) Mose Dangerfield
May 27-31 ... I Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Lloyd Luncford
May 31-June 4 ... II Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Lloyd Luncford
June 4-8 ... III Youth Conference ... (MBCB) D. P. Smith
June 10-14 ... IV Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Jim Didlake
June 14-18 ... V Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Jim Didlake
June 18-22 ... VI Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Larry Salter
June 22-26 ... VII Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Robin Nichols
June 26-29 ... Church Training Leadership Conference ... (CT) Mose Dangerfield
July 1-5 ... Family Enrichment Conference ... (CAC) Paul Jones
July 8-10 ... Pastor/Church Staff Conference ... (CAPM) Julius Thompson
July 8-10 ... Church Recreation Conference ... (CT) Robin Nichols
July 11-15 ... Young Musicians Conference ... (CM) Sarah Talley
July 15-19 ... I Youth Music Conference ... (CM) Susan Clark
July 19-23 ... II Youth Music Conference ... (CM) Susan Clark
July 24-27 ... Music Leadership Conference ... (CM) Dan Hall
July 29-31 ... I Sunday School Leadership Conference (Includes Spanish and Special Ministry Conferences) ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 1-3 ... II Sunday School Leadership Conference ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 5-7 ... III Sunday School Leadership Conference (Includes Church Media Library Conference) ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 8-10 ... IV Sunday School Leadership Conference ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 10-14 ... VIII Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Larry Salter
August 15-19 ... IX Youth Conference ... (MBCB) Robin Nichols
August 20-24 ... IV Senior Adult Conference ... (CT) Mose Dangerfield
September 6-7 ... V Sunday School Preschool/Children's Conference ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson
September 20-21 ... VI Sunday School Youth, Adult, General officers Conference ... (SS) Keith Wilkinson

Number of unevangelized drops four percent

NAIROBI, Kenya (EP)—The also dropped by about one half of one number of unevangelized people in percent during that time, according to the world has dropped by about four a report by David Barrett, Anglican percent since 1980, but the percentage statistician and editor of the World of Christians in total world population Christian Encyclopedia.

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Former church arsonists accept Christ

By John Brackin

POCOLA, Guatemala (BP)—Nearly 6,000 people showed up for the 16th anniversary service of a little country church in Pocola, including local residents who burned down the church building 13 years ago.

A majority of those who once violently opposed the evangelical gospel message preached by Jerusalem K'ekchi Baptist Church now have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior through its ministry.

The multitudes of other people attending the February anniversary represented 49 Baptist churches and mission points started over the years by the Jerusalem congregation.

The church kitchen crew fed more than 3,000 people daily during the celebration Feb. 7-10. Local church members donated six cows, 15 turkeys, 60 hens, 50 pounds of rice, 500 pounds of beans, and 60,000 pounds of corn for tortillas.

Activities began at 5 a.m. daily with a prayer meeting and ended after 10 p.m. with a Christian film. Three preaching services came in-between, and the majority of people present participated in all activities, though many had to stand outside the church building. More than 2,000 slept each night in a revival tent borrowed from Southern Baptist missionaries.

The church, which ministers to K'ekchi Indians, is located in a remote valley north of Guatemala City. Only a handful of houses can be seen from the church. Miguel Coc Macz became pastor of the new congregation when he was 15. He later worked as a Baptist home missionary among K'ekchi Indians elsewhere but has since returned to the Jerusalem church, which now counts some 600 members.

Brackin is press representative for Southern Baptist missionaries in Guatemala.

Murder of Baptist figures in Supreme Court landmark

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — In a decision which plows significant new ground in the field of criminal law, the U.S. Supreme Court has thrown out the conviction of a confessed murderer who five years ago killed a prominent Oklahoma Baptist pastor and his wife and severely wounded their two children.

Richard and Marilyn Douglass were shot to death Oct. 15, 1979 in their rural Canadian County home after they and their children, Brooks and Leslie, were bound and gagged in their living room. At the time, Richard Douglass was pastor of Putnam City Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. The Douglasses earlier had been Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

Marilyn Douglass died almost instantly as the result of a single shot to the back of the head; Richard died a short time later of two gunshot wounds to the back of the head and strangulation.

The children — Brooks was 16 and Leslie 13 at the time — survived. He is now a senior at Baylor University; she a freshman at Oklahoma State University.

In its Feb. 26 decision, the nation's high court ordered a new trial for Glen Burton Ake, the triggerman in the case. Under holdings in the court's decision, the state will be required to provide Ake with psychiatric assistance in the preparation of his defense, a practice already used by more than 40 states and the federal government.

In an 8-1 opinion written by Justice Thurgood Marshall, the high court held that when a criminal defendant has made a preliminary showing that his sanity at the time of the crime is likely to be a significant factor in his defense, "the Constitution requires that a State provide access to a psychiatrist's assistance... if the defendant cannot otherwise afford one."

In oral arguments last November, Ake's attorney argued his client's constitutional rights were violated by the denial of psychiatric assistance to help determine whether Ake was insane at the time of the crime, even though Ake admitted in a 44-page confession that he was the triggerman who killed Richard and Marilyn Douglass and wounded Brooks and Leslie Douglass.

Ake and co-defendant Steven Keith Hatch were arrested in Colorado after a month-long crime spree following

the Douglass killings. (In a separate proceeding Hatch was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death. He is currently awaiting execution on death row at Oklahoma's state prison at McAlester.)

After the examining psychiatrist diagnosed Ake as a probable paranoid schizophrenic and recommended further evaluation, he was committed to a state hospital. Six weeks later, however, the institution's chief forensic psychiatrist informed the court Ake was competent to stand trial, in part because he was receiving 200 milligrams, three times daily, of Thorazine, an antipsychotic drug.

At a pretrial conference in June 1980, Ake's attorney informed the court his client would plead insanity and asked for a separate psychiatric evaluation to assist in preparation of

his defense. But after the trial judge rejected the request, Ake was convicted on all counts, after which he was given two death sentences for the Douglass murders and a total of 1,000 years imprisonment on two counts of shooting with intent to kill.

Lee, who assisted Oklahoma Attorney General Turpen in arguing the case for the state, told Baptist Press the evidence against Ake is "overwhelming," and added, "We don't think there is any question he was sane at the time of the crime."

He said while the question raised in the Ake case is "probably something that needed to be answered," by the Supreme Court, "it is unfortunate" the ruling had to come in a case "with such outrageous facts."

Hastey writes for the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

WMU sponsors bus to Glorieta conference

Mississippi WMU will sponsor a bus to the National WMU Leadership Training Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, July 19-25. The bus will leave Jackson, from the Baptist Building, Wednesday morning, July 17 and return on Saturday afternoon, July 27.

The theme of the conference is "Multiply the Vision." A variety of methods conferences will be offered in the mornings for church WMU and age-level officers and leaders. Conferences for associational leadership will also be offered.

Special conferences will be held, related to enlistment, improving the image of WMU, mission study, and advanced leadership skills. There will be a 16-hour literacy workshop.

The afternoon convocations will include singing, promotional features, and Bible study led by Ruth Bagwell, retired Acteens director, Florida WMU.

Missions vespers, music, and mission features which include 16 home and foreign missionaries, will add to the program each evening.

The cost of the Glorieta bus trip and WMU Conference is \$450.00. The bus will make stops in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to see points of interests and mission sites, to and from Glorieta.

A deposit of \$45.00 will be required to hold space on the bus. The cost includes bus transportation, motels (four nights, two per room), and Glorieta charges (reservation fee, meals, room, and insurance). Not included are approximately 15 meals enroute. The balance of \$405.00 should be in the WMU Office by Tuesday, June 18. No refunds will be given after June 18.

"So, ladies — and gentleman," said Marilyn Hopkins, state WMU consultant, "what better way to prepare for your 1985-86 church year than by attending the National Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Training Conference? Men are welcome to come along! There will be many op-

portunities for them to hear missionaries during the week."

Send reservation: name, address, telephone (home and work) to, Glorieta Bus Trip, P. O. Box 530, WMU Office, Jackson, Ms. 39205. Include \$45.00 deposit, make checks payable to Mississippi WMU.

NOTE: Glorieta is located high in the mountains of northern New Mexico. There will be lots of walking and lots of hills.

Help from "mission natives"

(Continued from page 2)

He had gone through medical school in Australia and brought back a bride from there. For her own health reasons, she was forced to return to a drier climate; and he only rarely visited her in Australia.

Dr. Paton did all the medical work among several thousands natives with the help of "nurses" he had trained. He also was in charge of the school which all the children attended.

The navy dentist spent the day grinding and extracting teeth while the medical doctor assisted. I helped apply muscle to hold some of the patients still. The dentist left a large supply of materials that were desperately needed and we headed back to the mainland and our war. Dr. Paton had told me "90 percent of the natives here are Presbyterians." I could understand why they would be so impressed by the godly example of the Presbyterian family of missionaries. It didn't take a college education to understand also why the "mission natives" of Guadalcanal that I had heard about on the ship would try to save our lives even at great risk to their own.

Beverly Tinnin is pastor of First Church, Meridian.

Unhappiness is in not knowing what we want and killing ourselves to get it. — Don Herold

Thursday, March 21, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

House panel begins hearings on abortion clinic violence

WASHINGTON (BP) — A House Judiciary Committee panel has begun hearings on whether violence and other activities directed at clinics which perform abortions violate the constitutional rights of patients and employees of the clinics.

At a Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights hearing March 6, chairman Don Edwards, D-Calif., declared the purpose of the hearings "is emphatically not to debate the pros and cons of abortion."

Instead, Edwards said the hearings would examine the violence and other disruptive activities at abortion clinics and consider what role the federal government has in protecting the constitutional rights of employees and patients of the clinics.

In its first hearing, the committee heard of witnesses — including a patient and operators of clinics performing abortions — describe a variety of disruptions staged by abortion foes, ranging from arson to harassing phone calls and chants to patients and employees.

Edwards suggested "the harassment and intimidation of patients and staff" may be as injurious as the recent rash of bombings and burnings "in discouraging the exercise of constitutional rights."

In later hearings, Edwards said the panel hopes to hear from the Justice Department on why a federal civil rights law making it a crime to interfere with the exercise of a constitutional right "is not being applied to violence against women exercising their rights to enter reproductive health centers."

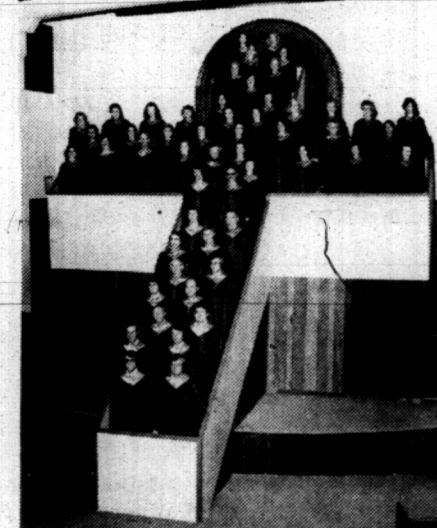
"Reproductive rights are constitutionally protected," Edwards said, "yet the Justice Department has not intervened here."

That same law, Edwards noted, was previously used by the Justice Department to prosecute harassment of blacks exercising their rights to enter restaurants.

NAE founder dies

HAMILTON, Mass. (EP)—Evangelical leader, Harold John Ockenga, died Feb. 8. He was 79. Ockenga was a founder and first president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and was still a member of the NAE Board of Administration at the time of his death. He was also first president of Pasadena's Fuller Theological Seminary, which he co-founded with Charles E. Fuller. He served in that role from 1947 until 1954, and again from 1960 to 1963.

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Holmes to observe Christian Emphasis

Christian Emphasis Week at Holmes Junior College at Goodman will be observed, April 1-3, according to James S. Allen, Baptist Student Union director at the college.

James Young, Southern Baptist missionary on furlough from Bangladesh, will be the speaker for these meetings. He is a graduate of Holmes.

Christian Emphasis Week this year is being co-sponsored by the BSU, Church of God in Christ, Vespers Group, and the Wesley Foundation.

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Evangelism's inspiration

Evangelism conferences, with the passing of years, have become the favorite meetings of Southern Baptists. This is true all across the Southern Baptist Convention, and it is true in Mississippi.

Mississippi's conference, held last week in Greenville at First Baptist Church, was not as well attended as in past years, but that was to be expected since it had to be postponed from its original February date due to a wide-spread ice storm.

Of course, in Mississippi our meeting is not purely an evangelism conference. Bible conferences were added several years ago. It is not likely that the addition of Bible study either helped or hindered the attendance. People are going to attend the evangelism conferences. They may or may not attend the Bible conferences once they get there. The Bible conferences, however, do offer a change in pace from a steady diet of sermons.

And they seem to be pretty well attended as long as they are offering Bible study. This year evidently there was at least one added, "God's Call To Give," that was conceived to be more promotional than it was Bible study. For at least one of the sessions no one attended.

Be that as it may, Evangelism Conferences continue to draw enthusiastic audiences. In Texas recently the one for that state drew 20,000. Even for Texas, where there are more Baptists than there are people in Mississippi, 20,000 is a big attendance.

It can be better understood when it is noted that a comparable attendance in Mississippi would be 5,000. We would have to alternate the sites between our two coliseums in Jackson and Biloxi.

Nevertheless, we do have good at-

tendances. And those who attend enjoy the meetings.

The reason is two-fold and simple. It is the inspiration and the music. And the music, of course, is inspirational. When and if we move away from the inspirational we are tampering with the successful formula. Inspiration has always been the genius of evangelism conference interest. If, perchance, we fail to understand the essence of inspiration, we surely could lose the interest in the conferences.

It has nothing to do with practicality. It is recharging batteries; it is filling cups in danger of becoming empty; it is inspiration—which is being in touch with God.

We had it this year. The names were not as well known, perhaps, as has been the case in some past years; but they were effective speakers. I had never heard of Malcolm McDow before, yet we found we once lived in the same neighborhood in Waco, Texas, about three blocks apart, though we were not there at the same time. My family had already moved on to the open spaces of the cattle country in West Texas before he got there. McDow was inspirational.

The master story teller, Jack Stanton, always brings inspiration with him, though he would be quick to point out that he is only an instrument, not the source.

The very able Charles Fuller was a new name for our evangelism conference this year, though the name itself is not new. He has been well known as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., for a number of years and this year is serving as chairman of the critical SBC committee on boards. His messages were challenging.

Ron Lewis was dynamic. Bill Glass, the former football player who now has a ministry to prison inmates, was simple but tremendously effective.

As fine and as inspirational as those speakers are, and as effective as they are in communicating with the crowds, there is something that may indeed be more the ingredient that makes the evangelism conferences

jell, that makes them the watering trough where a minister can fill his soul and get a fresh start.

It is the music.

It could be that they would come for the music if for no other reason. There is something about music that fills the soul when nothing else can. It is the universal language that all can understand.

Baptists, perhaps, have perfected the art of church music to a greater extent than any other denomination. That doesn't mean that we particularly have a higher form of music than any other church body. We do have participation to a greater extent on a more meaningful basis than any other group. And surely Mississippi has managed to wind up with more than its share of top-quality, dedicated, scintillating musicians.

Keyboard artists form the nucleus for this ministry, and Dot Pray on the organ and Irene Martin on the piano have formed a team that has been providing the basis for outstanding music at evangelism conferences for several years. As the years go along others are added as the opportunity arises. For instance, this year Greenville musicians were added as was Edwin Sudduth, minister of music at Central Church, Brookhaven. Then Alice Kathryn Turner of Greenville played the harp, and Edd Brashier of Carthage played the trumpet.

And always the vocal soloists and the ensembles were well received. One ensemble this year was an impromptu group that was formed after the conference started, but it included some pretty high-powered musicians and indicated the tremendous talent that is to be found at these conferences. The group included music evangelist Kathryn Barfield of Yazoo City; Mike Harland, music director at Parkway Church, Greenville; his wife, Teresa; Ann Colbert, music evangelist from Forest who wrote one of the three songs that the group sang and actually sort of commandeered the group; Gaye Sikes, organist at First Church, Yazoo City, who has compiled a book of arrangements for



Byron Cutrer, minister of music, directs the choir of First Church, Greenville. Keith Wilkinson, sitting, presided at that session of the Evangelism-Bible Conference.

organ that has been published by Broadman; Deanna Garletts of Greenville; Byron Reid of Greenville, whose wife was one of the keyboard artists; Byron Cutrer, minister of music at First Church, Greenville; who served as recruiting officer; and Mike Smith, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson.

Smith, who arranged one of the three songs, is a composer, arranger, conductor, and top-flight pianist who was making a mark in Texas as minister of music at First Church, Conroe, when he came to Mississippi. Now he is enriching the quality of our music scene.

But the congregational singing, that is something else. Whether people sing better at evangelism conferences or whether it is the better singers who attend them, there is nothing to compare to the congregational singing at those conferences. The people have gone there for inspiration. They have been inspired. And they let it be known through their singing. They let the music flow through their souls, and it is a spiritual feast just to listen to it and to be a part of it.

Perhaps I am letting prejudices show, but surely they are excusable.

My call into special service came during a secular newspaper career as I served voluntarily as music director in a small church in West Texas. And as I went to the seminary and then began a career with Baptist state papers, I served for 15 or 16 years as part-time music director in churches until the demands of being editor closed out that phase of my life. The last one was at a little church in Mesquite, Texas, when I was elected editor in California. Even then I managed to get in a brief stint as interim director at Central Church in Fresno. Lasting friendships were formed with those pastors and some choir members, and it was a phase of service that I loved dearly.

My earliest hero was evangelist singer Joe Trussell of Texas. I wanted to be like him. I never made it, but I still remember the influence he had on a young life.

So much for that, but I do understand the interest in singing and in the music generally. Dan Hall does a magnificent job in pulling it all together.

As do Guy Henderson and Keith Wilkinson in overseeing the entire program.

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515 Mississippi Street

P.O. Box 530

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Don McGregor

Editor

Tim Nicholas

Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams

Editorial

Associate

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell O. Cork, Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian; Bruce Hill, Lexington, vice-chairman; Owen Lusk, Columbia; Robert H. Jackson, Brandon; Dan Thompson, Harperville, chairman. Ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

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Number 7

Guest opinion . . .

Help from the "mission natives"

By Beverly Tinnin

I had boarded a troop transport in San Diego headed for Noumea, New Caledonia, and the war that was raging in the Pacific. We spent 18 days zigzagging to escape possible enemy submarines en route. Daily orientation lectures were given the company of navy and marine pilots of which I was a part. One session in particular caught my interest. The intelligence officer was briefing us on areas of the Solomon Islands where possible rescue for pilots who were shot down could be attempted. In "matter of fact" terminology he said these were locations of mission compounds before the war (WWII). He said other

natives who were referred to as "plantation natives" would turn American airmen over to the occupying Japanese, but "mission natives" would hide and try to make contact with American ships and facilitate escape. The lecturer made no attempt to explain the reasons for the differences between the two groups of natives.

After a few weeks in Noumea in a "pilot's pool" I received orders to join VMSB341, a marine dive bombing squadron. I was dispatched to Efate, the southern most island of the New Hebrides. Here, in training maneuvers, I was absorbed as a

replacement and prepared to move up into combat in the Solomon Islands.

While on Efate a Navy dentist invited me one day to accompany him to a mission hospital compound, where he would perform some dental work. I gladly went along. We took a small navy "crash boat" out to an island located about half a mile off the mainland. Here we found a densely populated native village with neat houses and well drained dirt streets. I could see Singer sewing machines and other useful household items from the civilized world.

It was later explained to us that years earlier for sanitation and

malaria prevention the native population had been moved off the mainland. They went ashore to work their gardens and labor in coconut plantations but returned to their homes and family each evening. A missionary had planned and directed the migration to the island.

The hospital was truly remarkable. A third generation missionary who was a fully qualified doctor was in charge. He told us how his grandfather, George Paton, had come from Scotland to the New Hebrides. His father had carried on the work, and now he had assumed responsibility.

(Continued on page 5)

SBC forum plans pre-convention slate

Thursday, March 21, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

The Baptist Record

Evangelism-Bible Conference

Speakers wonder why Baptists do not witness

By Don McGregor

Mississippi Baptists last week finally had their annual Evangelism-Bible Conference, the one that was delayed by a massive February ice storm.

The site was the same—First Church, Greenville. The program personalities were almost the same. Only one speaker had to cancel. The crowd may have been a bit smaller than would have been the case in February without the ice, but still the lower floor of the 1,200-seat Greenville church was comfortably filled.

The time frame of the conference was changed from a Monday night beginning and Wednesday noon ending to a Monday afternoon kickoff with the conclusion on Tuesday evening. A straw poll during the conference indicated that those attending the sessions preferred the arrangement used this year. The number of sessions, five, remained the same.

There were six speakers for the plenary sessions, some speaking twice and one speaking three times. There were eight conferences, some led by plenary session speakers. In addition there were two periods of special music in each of the five sessions and vocal benedictions on two occasions.

Music prominent

As is always the case, music played a prominent part during the program.

Each session was initiated with keyboard praise, generally a 15-minute concert of piano and organ music. Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with the Church Music Department and organist at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and Irene Martin, music evangelist from Forest and pianist at First Church, Richland, were presented in each of the concerts and were the accompanists for the congregational singing throughout the conference. Others who participated in the concerts were Nancy Riddle, a pianist at First Church, Greenville; Edwin Sudduth, minister of music at Central Church, Brookhaven; and Sharon Reid, also a pianist at First Church, Greenville. In addition, Edd Brashier, minister of music at First Church, Carthage, presented trumpet numbers before the first session; and Alice Kathryn Turner, organist, at First Church, Greenville, played the harp.

Six of the eight vocal soloists were music evangelists. They were Cecil Harper of Jackson, Bobby Shurden of Drew, Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson, W. C. Rainey Jr. of Petal, Denise Riley of Jackson, and Tom Larrimore of Jackson. Frank Stovall, a soloist, is director of the music department at Mississippi College; and Eddie Keyser, the other soloist, is

a student at the University of Mississippi.

Kathryn Barfield, a music evangelist from Yazoo City, was scheduled for a solo but instead asked Jimmy Boyd, also a member of First Church, Yazoo City, to join her in a duet.

New songs

Ann Colbert, a music evangelist from Forest, also scheduled for a solo, enlisted an ensemble to aid her in presenting three new songs to the conference. The three songs, recently published by Message Music Publishing Company of Jackson, were "Lift Up the Name of the Lord," by Billy Causey, son of the pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson; "Sonshine Christians," a song written by Mrs. Colbert and inspired by a piece written by Anne McWilliams, editorial staff member at the Baptist Record; and "The Desert Shall Blossom like the Rose," written by Irene Martin, who accompanied the presentation. Michael T. Smith, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, arranged the latter song and sang in the ensemble that presented the three.

In addition, there were presentations by three choirs. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen, an ensemble of church musicians in the state, was scheduled for the first program and sang during the conference last week. The group was smaller than would have been the case in February because of individual scheduling problems, but about 20 members of the group were able to participate.

The group was directed by Lee Gordon, minister of music at Van Winkle Church, Jackson; and Michael T. Smith was the accompanist.

Other choirs were the First Church, Greenville choir, directed by Byron Cutrer, minister of music at First Church, and the Washington Association Choir, directed by Mike Harland, minister of music at Parkway Church, Greenville.

Vocal benedictions

The vocal benedictions were by Elaine Pounds of Picayune and by Mike and Teresa Harland of Greenville.

The theme for the conference was "Follow Jesus."

Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, almost missed his initial message for the conference because of airline scheduling problems. He arrived, however, just in time to walk up to the pulpit and begin speaking. In speaking on "The Needs of the Helpless," McDow said that "people all around us are trying, in the midst of their devastation, to escape their hopeless situations." "This accounts," he said, "for the unbelievable use of alcohol and drugs and the embracing of humanism."

Christians get in the way of the lost coming to Christ, he charged, and included preachers among those sometimes causing such problems.

"When it takes 38 of us to baptize one, we are being hurtful to the cause of Christ," he declared.

"One of the greatest problems we

(Continued on page 7)

SBC Forum, the newest pre-convention meeting for messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention, will be held Monday, June 10, from 1:30-5 p.m. in the West Hall of the Dallas Convention Center. Begun last year in Kansas City, the Forum offers in its second year an expanded program and doubled seating capacity.

Featured speakers and their messages include James Flammang, pastor, First Church, Richmond, "Orthodoxy of Love;" Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Seminary,

"Integrity in Proclaiming the Gospel;" Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, "The Doctrine of First Things;" Cecil Sherman, pastor, Broadway Church, Fort Worth, "To Trust Again;" and William Self, pastor, Wieuca Road Church, Atlanta, "What They Don't Teach You at Baptist Preacher's School."

CBS Television news analyst Bill Moyers is also committed to speak if not called away on special assignment. Presiding for the second time is Gene Garrison, pastor, First Church, Oklahoma City.

Featured musicians include Christian artists Cynthia Clawson, Ken Medema, Darrell Adams, and Bob Bailey, and Foreign Mission Board executive vice-president William O'Brien. Bill James, minister of music, Wilshire Church, Dallas, will direct the afternoon's music.

Organizers of the meeting are continuing a Monday night fellowship for SBC messengers begun in Kansas City. This year's reception will be held in the Reunion Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 7-10 p.m.

John Hewett, pastor, Kirkwood Church, St. Louis, and Forum publicity coordinator, called the meeting "a positive response to the need expressed by pastors and other messengers for an affirming, celebrative worship experience before the Convention."

He added: "Messengers seeking personal encouragement, biblical challenge, and Christian fellowship will find SBC Forum a breath of fresh air in the pre-convention schedule. Ours is a positive agenda: we are pro-Convention, pro-missions, pro-Cooperative Program, pro-Baptist colleges, pro-seminaries, and pro-local church. We see our goal as affirming the stated purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention, which calls all Southern Baptists to 'promote Christian missions, Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which further the Kingdom of God.'"

Program committee for SBC Forum includes Henry Crouch, pastor, Providence Church, Charlotte; Bill Bruster, pastor, Central Church, Knoxville; and Hewett.

Southern Baptists asked to pray May 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists, "and Christians everywhere" have been urged to make "every day" a day of prayer, with special emphasis on May 2.

President Ronald Reagan, following a tradition begun in the revolutionary war and reestablished in 1952, has declared May 2 the National Day of Prayer.

The Executive Committee of the 14.3-million member Southern Baptist Convention, at its February meeting, voted unanimously to "concur in the action" and encouraged "all churches and agencies aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention to give special emphasis to the importance of prayer in our relationship with Almighty God."

Hunger cited as 'epidemic'

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A study indicating hunger in America has reached "epidemic proportions" should remind Southern Baptists and other concerned Christians "we must look across town as well as overseas" in responding to human need, Robert Parham says.

Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, said he feels the recently-released findings of the Physician Task Force on Hunger in American "present clear and convincing evidence millions of Americans are going hungry in the midst of abundance."

The report follows a year-long investigation by researchers who traveled back roads, opened refrigerators and searched out "the human face of hunger." The group of prominent doctors and public health experts from across the country reviewed previous studies on hunger and compiled additional data through "hundreds and hundreds" of interviews and field studies.

Despite the nation's economic recovery, the task force found that up to 20 million Americans "may be hungry at least some period of time each month." The study defined hungry persons as those who are chronically unable to purchase an adequate diet as well as those who periodically run out of food altogether.

Among the study's findings:

—Second Harvest, an umbrella organization, notes a 700 percent increase in food distribution since 1980. Begun in 1967, Second Harvest is a nationwide network of 74 food banks.

—Clinics in poor areas are reporting cases of kwashiorkor and marasmus, two diseases of advanced malnutrition usually associated with the Third World.

—The U.S. infant mortality rate is worse than that of other industrial nations and appears to be leveling off instead of declining. The 1983 infant mortality rate was 10.9 per 1,000 live births, which is "behind that of comparably wealthy nations." In New York's central Harlem, the rate is as high as 25.6 per 1,000.

—From 1982 to 1985, \$12.2 billion was cut from federal food stamps and child nutrition programs.

Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.



A new Testament designed for use in the Good News America Crusade in 1986 is discussed by, left to right, Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary; Jack Stanton, evangelist from Bolivar, Mo.; and Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists. The Good News America Crusade will involve simultaneous revivals all across the nation.

Home missions is centerpiece of telecommunications session

By Carol Sisson Garrett

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Audiences as large as 100 and as small as one gathered at more than 160 sited across the nation Feb. 9 for the second live Home Missions Teleconference.

In one Montana town, six people gathered at a local electric store to view the teleconference. Nine residents of the Baptist Convalescent Center in Newport, Ky., took part in the broadcast, as did 100 people at the Montgomery, Ala., coliseum.

Viewing sites included homes, churches, associational and state Baptist offices — and in many places, one person sat before the screen.

The teleconference, broadcast live from Birmingham, Ala., via Baptist Telecommunication Network, was viewed by an estimated 2,000 people. Five home missionaries, a church pastor, a church WMU director, a church Brotherhood director, and three SBC agency heads discussed home missions with moderator Jay Durham and with telephone callers.

"Who Cares?", the 1985 Week of Prayer for Home Missions theme, was a central teleconference topic. Much of the nationwide audience was composed of WMU members "involved in missions education in their churches, studying week by week what missions is," Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC executive director said.

"The approximately 1.2 million women and girls enrolled in Woman's Missionary Union care. They are praying and giving not just once a year, but every week in their churches," she said. Weatherford, Home Mission Board President William Tanner and Brotherhood President James Smith fielded questions phoned in by viewers.

Caring that leads to action was a familiar subject for home missionary Freddie Mae Bason. "For me, missions is creatively fulfilling the unexpired term of Christ Jesus, using any resources that you have to do that," she said. Bason is director of Memorial Drive Baptist Center in Atlanta.

Missionaries reaching out to some of the nation's largest metropolitan cities discussed their work in much the same way that W. J. Hughes, a Mississippian and director of missions in Montana, discussed his. While individual problems and situations were very different, their needs appeared quite similar.

Dan Lindsey, evangelism consultant in Los Angeles County, Calif., and David Palmer, church extension director in Palm Beach County, Fla., agreed with Hughes that their greatest needs were for prayer support, monetary support, and the actual physical support of more people to help with their work.

The teleconference preceded the March 3-10 Week of Prayer for Home Missions. The format was designed to inform and involve a live audience, and also to allow churches to tape the teleconference and use it in missions education.

Carol Sisson Garrett writes for Woman's Missionary Union.

Southwestern will explore biblical basis of the laity

FORT WORTH, Texas—Ordained and non-ordained Baptists will meet at Southwestern Seminary March 21-23 to wrestle with and explore the biblical basis for a theology of the laity.

Theme of the meeting is "Convocation of the Laos: The People of God."

Participating with Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, a layman and former SBC president, will be Fred Roach, a Dallas businessman; Hershel Hobbs, retired pastor of First Church,

Oklahoma City, and a former SBC president; T. B. Maston, professor of Christian ethics emeritus, Southwestern Seminary; and others, including Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday, who will deliver the convocation's closing address.

For more information, contact J. David Fite, director of continuing education for ministry, Southwestern Seminary, P. O. Box 22207, Fort Worth, Tex. 76122.

Texas defeats bill to allow gambling

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists and other anti-gambling opponents scored back-to-back victories recently when state legislatures in Mississippi and Texas defeated pari-mutuel betting bills.

The twin losses represent a significant setback for gambling industry leaders who this year have targeted key southern states for expansion of legalized gambling through pari-mutuel betting and state-sponsored lotteries. Pari-mutuel legislation is still under consideration in several other states, including Georgia, Kansas, and Tennessee.

A bill which would have allowed voters in two Mississippi counties to decide whether to establish county racing commissions was defeated in the state Senate, 27 to 21, after earlier passing the House. A motion to reconsider temporarily revived the legislation, but the motion was later tabled, killing the bill for the current session.

A few days later the Texas House surprised gambling proponents by defeating a pari-mutuel bill 95-52. Supporters of the bill have conceded defeat, admitting they lack enough strength to muster the two-thirds ma-

jority required to reconsider the legislation.

The results were particularly sweet for anti-gambling leaders since many observers in both states had been predicting passage of the gambling legislation.

In both states, Southern Baptists figured prominently in public opposition to the pari-mutuel bills. State Baptist moral concerns agencies helped marshal opposition, editors of both state Baptist papers editorialized against the bills, and many pastors urged their congregations to register their concern with elected representatives.

Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

Quakes hurt churches in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (BP) — Chilean churchgoers were attending Sunday evening worship services when the March 3 earthquake struck the South American country.

Collapsing church walls killed about 12 Catholics in one building and four Methodists in another, according to Bryan Brasington, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for western South America.

No deaths or injuries have been reported among Chilean Baptists or Southern Baptist missionaries, said Walt Chambliss, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Chile.

About 40 of 208 Chilean Baptist churches and 45 of 70 Southern Baptist missionaries are in central Chile, where the earthquake did the most damage. The region stretches from Santiago, the nation's capital, to the Pacific coast cities of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso.

Three Baptist churches reported extensive damage, said Brasington. Reconstruction efforts will be organized for the damaged churches, he said.

Early counts totaled more than 150 people killed and 2,000 injured in the earthquake, which registered 7.4 on the Richter scale.

Commission gives Cronkite, Hatfield awards

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Famed CBS Newsman Walter Cronkite and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) received special honors from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission Feb. 21 as part of the agency's annual Abe Lincoln Awards.

Cronkite, consistently selected as one of the most trusted public figures in the United States when he anchored the daily evening news for CBS, received the Distinguished Communications Medal for his "dedication to truth and freedom of expression."

Because Cronkite was unable to attend, CBS News colleague Charles Kuralt accepted the award for Cronkite and delivered the keynote address for the event.

Kuralt praised Cronkite's commitment to objective reporting. That notion, he said, has suffered under the influence of "the new journalism," which encourages reporters to express a point of view in their stories.

Objective reporting requires humility, persistence and honesty, said Kuralt, who has spent 28 years with CBS news. "A good reporter must come to a story with an honest heart. He must tell it as it is and never as he wishes it to be."

Hatfield was honored with the Christian Service Award for his "commitment to peace and humanitarian causes." He, too, was unable to attend the ceremony because of a key Senate vote.

His wife, Antoinette, accepted his award.

Warner writes for the Radio-Television Commission.

Quartet sing will be March 23

In a story last week concerning gospel quartet winners from around the state which will be singing at Mississippi College March 23, Harrisville Church, Harrisville, was inadvertently listed in the Baptist Record at Harrisburg, Simpson.

The Harrisville church will be among associational winners who will be competing with other groups for the chance to sing that evening at the State Gospel Quartet Sing at 7 p.m. The Sing will feature state winners and the Masters Five, which consists of J. D. Sumner, Jake Hess, Hovie Lister, James Blackwood, and Steve Warren.

SCRAPBOOK

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Eccl. 3:1).

Thoughts of spring

I'm longing for the frozen earth
To feel a touch of spring.
For daffodils with cups of gold,
And robins on the wing.

For violets with their rare perfume
To lure the sleeping bees.
For breezes with their song of love
To whisper to the trees.

For dry and crumpled tulip bulbs
We planted months ago —
To come to life with colors warm
And melt the drifting snow.

And yet I know this all will come,
Our hearts again will sing,
When in God's time the earth unfolds
With miracles of spring.

—Augustine Burch
Brookhaven

March

You have always been labeled
a month under stress
When your fierce wind is blowing
no one can rest.
I know you are caught
between winter and spring
No wonder folks
give you a bad name!

One day you're warm,
the next day you're cold
And always your wind
is powerful and bold
I don't dare cross you
I must stay in your graces
And pray that your vengeance
will go other places!

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

The music of the seasons

Spring is a ballet dancer;
She skips, she bows, she swirls;
She whispers to each crocus bud,
"Awake, to bright new worlds."

Summer waltzes slowly in
As Merry May leads June,
They lightly tread on roses
Like violins in tune.

The mellow notes of Autumn;
Her bright warm tones all blending,
Like the swells of some great
symphony
That tells of summer's ending.

King Winter's wind come whistling
As scattered snowflakes fall
Bringing the bells of Christmas,
That I like best of all.

—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley

The greatest achievement of the human spirit is to live up to one's opportunities and make the most of one's resources. — Vauvenargues

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Start-A-Church Sunday

Next Sunday is Start-A-Church Commitment Sunday. The Church Extension Department of the Home Mission Board is encouraging churches to consider making church-starting commitments.

At least 1,000 churches must be constituted each year, they say, if Southern Baptists are to reach the goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000.

I'm thinking of a Baptist church in Rio, Brazil, the 19-year-old Church of Hope, which with slender resources has started at least seven mission congregations.

The church was organized Aug. 14, 1966, at 127 First of March Street in Rio de Janeiro, with 19 members who called David Gomes as pastor. In 1969, the 19 members bought the vacant lot next to their meeting place. On it, a 22-story building went up, called the Building of Faith. In August 1984, the church's new sanctuary was dedicated on one floor of the Building of Faith. (The rather unbelievable story of this building is told in my book, *David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs*.) The church membership numbers 150-200. In the downtown location, people are constantly moving in and out.

The Church of Hope first established a preaching point at Petropolis, a resort town near Rio. Then they started two missions called Faith and Love. They began a mission at the

church's camp in the mountains, called Mt. Moriah; the mission became a church. They began missions further away from Rio, at Passa Quatro and Cruzeiro. First Church, Yazoo City has helped to sponsor those.

Passa Quatro was constituted as a church in May, 1984. (This congregation read the Bible through aloud, without stopping, in 80 hours, last December.) They baptize an average of three a month. Also Church of Hope sponsors a mission now in the same city, in a section called Rio das Pedras, where attendance averages 60.

"Our greatest work now," reports Pastor Gomes, is "our work in Largo do Machado. Nobody had thought of planting a church there. In six months, God gave us 16 people. We were fearing the cost of rent, but their tithe is already paying it." He baptized five persons there on Feb. 10 and eight on Feb. 24. The mission is planning to be constituted as a church on May 1 of this year.

"Besides that," he added, "we have started a work in Vila do Joao." Seminary students from classes David teaches sometimes preach in these missions.

Suggestions for Start-A-Church Sunday in Mississippi are (1) try to start a new church-type mission (2) join with one or more churches in starting a mission (3) pray for a new mission congregation.



David Gomes baptizes a new member at Church of Hope, Rio, Brazil. The baptismal pool, when not in use, is covered with hinged flooring that forms the base of the pulpit platform.

Speakers wonder why Baptists do not witness

(Continued from page 3)

have in Southern Baptist life," he said, in referring to the conflict now being experienced, "is a Christological problem." He added, "Jesus above all else is God in the flesh. What we are is determined by what we see Jesus to be." He concluded, "If we are to do his work, we must have that bedrock conviction."

In a later message, McDow said, "The whole matter of a crisis in the Great Commission was over the matter of authority. The religious leaders thought that they had the authority; but Christ said, 'All authority is mine,'" he noted. "There is none left. The decision is either to obey or disobey."

Purpose of the church

The church, he said, needs to rediscover the purpose of the church, which is to make disciples. "All other activities are functions to help accomplish the purpose." Worship, fellowship, and teaching are not the purpose of the church but are functions to help accomplish the purpose of witnessing to the lost and thus making disciples, he declared.

"We don't have to wonder what to teach—he has told us. We must teach people who call him Lord to live the things that he has commanded, and that includes witnessing."

At that point, Howard Ramsey, director of the personal evangelism section of the Home Mission Board, gave a testimony for witness training. He said that only 15 percent of Southern Baptist churches offer witness training that amounts to at least 10 hours a year. He noted that a survey of pastors in one state with a large Baptist population revealed that less than 10 percent of them go outside their church setting to seek to win people.

Jack Stanton, an evangelist from Bolivar, Mo., expressed his belief in personal evangelism. "When we have made the greatest strides in evangelism has been when we have trained laymen to go out and witness," he said.

"We don't have to wait around and beg God for revival," he pointed out. "God is more anxious than we are to revive his blessed people." He noted that there are nine times more lost people today than there were people living when Christ was on earth.

"We can't win the world by sitting in our sanctuaries. We have to go where the lost are. I want you to see people in their sin. Some of us have been saved so long we forget the heartache and the horror it is to be cut off without God," he said.

Church budget

He added that he could tell by looking at a church's budget what that church thinks of evangelism.

Stanton spoke twice, and in his later message told the congregation, "You don't convict anybody. You go and talk to a man about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit convicts him. The Holy Spirit applies the redemptive work of the gospel in the lives of the individuals."

In a third message, McDow said there is no "come and see" evangelism. "God has given us the land, but it will not be ours until we take it." "We will never reach the communities," he said, "until we go and tell."

"The only reason for our existence is to take the field that is before us," he said. "As servants of God we must know that the reason we are living on this earth is to witness." "As we are faithful," he added, "we will have the success that only God can give. But before we can reach the lost we must know where the lost are. The church that has the prospects is the church that reaches the lost. Then when we are faithful in witnessing, God is going to give us the victories."

"Abundant power for victory is available," he declared. "God plus nothing equals everything."

Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., spoke on two occasions. He asked, "Why is it that today so much of the world doesn't know about the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross? Why is it that so many people in your town, in Mississippi, do not know the Lord?"

He pointed out that at the Samaritan village it was not the disciples who led the villagers to Christ. "It was a rejected, despised, outcast woman."

Preoccupation is cause

"We generally spend our time with those with whom we feel comfortable," he said, "but witnessing doesn't depend on our comfort factor." He cited preoccupation as a major cause of lack of witnessing also, noting that preoccupation can be about good, important things that still keep one from witnessing. "You can become so involved in a crusade that you forget your first assignment," he said.

"The denomination runs a heavy risk of becoming preoccupied in this present hour," he added. "Some are in the controversy up to their necks. Some of it may help, but we could win some battles and lose a war."

In his second message, Fuller said there are those who have heard the gospel and refuse to believe. Some are traditionally religious, some are theologically confused, some are

thoroughly self satisfied, and some are totally self willed, he noted.

If we are to witness, he said, we must be convinced that any person who is outside of Christ is lost, that Christ can transform any life, and that Christ has given us the privilege of presenting him to all sorts of people.

Those who have received the witness must be able to tell that the one who is witnessing has been with Jesus, he concluded.

Ron Lewis, staff member in Church Growth Designs of the Sunday School Board in Nashville, was another who spoke twice. He declared that politics is involved in everything. "Everything has a hidden agenda, including church growth," he noted. "Everybody wants their deal to be No. 1." "One of these days the church is going to have the opportunity to speak to the whole world," he continued. "The question is, will it have anything to say?" Only four to five percent of the churches have a budget item for church growth, he observed. In his later address, Lewis used the Apostle Andrew as an example. He noted that Andrew was a leader, a catalyst, and an expediter. He was building relationships with whatever resources he had available. He was a planter and he was usable, Lewis declared.

Football star

A former football star with Baylor University and the Cleveland Browns, Bill Glass, now an evangelist from Dallas, Texas, was the concluding speaker. He spoke on Caleb's statement from the Book of Joshua, "Give me my mountain." A problem can become a mountain, Glass declared, but an opportunity can become a mountain also. We need to have an "as though" attitude, he said. "We need to act as though victory has already been won. Faith is that way, he said.

He pointed out that "under the circumstances" can do nothing. "We've got to get on top of the circumstances," he said. "We must have confidence."

"The Christian attitude is to rejoice in everything," he added. "Is this impractical? Yes," he said. "But it is the Christian attitude."

"You have the right to have the winning attitude," he noted; "but it must come by faith."

He concluded by pointing out that the population of the world is 4.5 billion people. Only 1.5 billion of them are Christians, he added. "How can we win them?" he asked.

"That's our mountain," he said.

Congregational song leaders for the conference were Dan Hall; Jerry Swimmer, music evangelist from

(Continued on page 11)

BAPTIST MEN'S CONFERENCE

March 23, 1985 Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson

Conferences — 9:30 a.m. Luncheon — 11:15 a.m. General Session — 12:30 p.m.

Devotional Games church members play

By David W. Spencer
Matthew 11:16-19

In our scripture passage we see that Jesus thought His generation was playing childish games with the Kingdom of God. Having listed several of these "games" in the past two weeks, we move on to list even more.

One of the best-selling church games is "The Criticism Game." The object is to see who can find the most wrong with the church. It is similar to darts. Popular areas of attack are the Preacher, the Staff, the Deacons, the Choir, and the Church's ministry.

One point is awarded for each critical thing you can say. Then you multiply this figure by the number of people who hear you voice this criticism. A single, friendly conversation may be good for only 2 or 3 points, but if you make your criticism before your Sunday School class you may get 15 or 20 points. A business meeting is even better.

Sometimes you can score over 100 points! You are also awarded extra points each time somebody else repeats your critical remark. Again, there are no limits to scoring possibilities. Many of the masters are well into the millions of points!

Critical remarks which hurt people's feelings, which make the church look ridiculous, which drive people away from the church, or which cause the preacher to resign carry big bonuses!

In "Power Brokers," people fight to see who is going to run the church. It is a religious version of "Dallas." Here are the rules: (1) Make sure no one else's ideas or suggestions are adopted by the church; (2) speak loudly and negatively against other potential leaders; (3) alienate as many people as possible so they'll quit the game and leave less competition; (4) if your idea is rejected by the rest of the church, fight it as long as you have breath and never support anything you've voted against; (5) never consider what God might want — after all, what does he know about your church; and, (6) if it looks like you're not going to be the Big Winner, quickly move to another church and start over.

This game is over when you're crowned the "Big Winner" and everybody else starts referring to it as "your church."

As silly as the religious games of Jesus' day were, ours seem even sillier. Don't you think that it breaks Jesus' heart when he sees his church members playing games while they miss the Kingdom's blessings and even cause others to miss them?

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

Masters V to sing at Greenwood

The Masters V will present a concert March 24 at First Church, Greenwood, beginning at 7 p.m. They sing in four-part harmony as a male quartet.

The five men in the group are J. D. Sumner, James Blackwood, Hovie Lister, Jake Hess, and Steve Warren.

Centreville to celebrate 100th

Centreville Church, Centreville, will hold its centennial celebration on Sunday, March 31.

Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11, Church Training at 6 p.m., and evening worship at 7. Dinner will be served at the church, following the morning service.

James E. M. Simeon is the pastor; Ron Budenich is minister of music and youth.

Clarke plans Preview Day

Clarke College will hold its spring Preview Day on Wednesday, April 3 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Prospective students are invited to visit the campus on this day and attend classes, get financial aid information, and have counseling sessions with faculty.

Students and parents will be the guests of the college for lunch. For more information, contact Clarke College 683-2061.

Southern aims Congress at layperson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — "The Layperson in Evangelism" is the theme of the third annual Congress on Evangelism to be held March 28-30 at Southern Seminary here.

This year's program is aimed at lay church leaders as well as pastors and church staff, according to congress organizer Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary. Along with teaching "how-to's" of lay evangelism, the conference will offer help in teaching lay evangelism in the local church.

Program personalities include Sir Cyril Black, former member of Parliament and former president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in addition to his career as a businessman and Owen Cooper, a businessman from Yazoo City, Miss., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Congress registration is \$15 per person or \$25 for a couple, with a \$7.50 student registration available. The program begins Thursday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. and concludes at noon on Saturday, March 30. The Friday evening banquet will feature a mini-concert by vocalist Russell Newport.

For additional information or to register, contact Ross Brummett, director of continuing education, at Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280, or call 1-800-626-5525 (toll free).

Williamsburg cuts ribbon at pastorium

An open house was held Feb. 10 at the recently completed pastorium of Williamsburg Church, Collins. A dedication service, which included a ribbon cutting, was held at the front entry.

Participating in the service were the pastor, Floyd Seymour, and building committee members Mooney Jordan, vice chairman; Joe Magee, Billy Pat Graves; Bob Faler; and Dusty Rhodes. Other committee members present were Sammy Hooks, Kenry Holder, and Charles Craft.

A special recognition was given to Don Dees, committee chairman, who was unable to attend, due to illness.

Approximately \$77,000 was spent in building the 2,200 square ft. of heated space of the house. (The full basement is unfinished at this time.) Approximately one third of the cost of the building has been paid.

Hostesses for the reception were Joyce Seymour, Mary Lou Graves, Winnie Hooks, and Jackie Faler.

Doubt comes in at the window when inquiry is denied at the door. — J. H. Jowett

People with never a spiritual note in their speech reveal their spiritual bankruptcy.

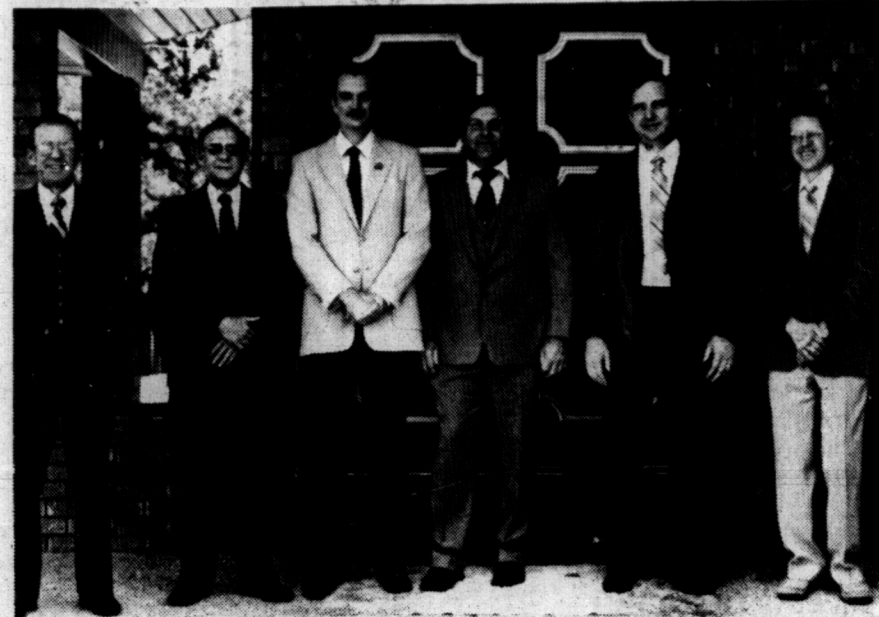


West Laurel members brought cans and packages of food to the altar on March 3.

Nine Protestant groups moving toward unity

BALTIMORE, Md. (EP)—Representatives from nine Protestant denominations have approved a set of accords designed to provide a theological basis for eventual union of the churches. The Consultation on Church Union, meeting in Baltimore, adopted a 48,000 word statement of agreement on such issues as baptism, creeds and worship, removing what church officials had described as the biggest theological roadblocks to unity.

Churches involved include the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African



At the new Williamsburg pastorium entrance are, left to right, Joe Magee, Mooney Jordan, Floyd Seymour, pastor, Billy Pat Graves, Bob Faler, and Dusty Rhodes.

West Laurel dedicates food for "Operation Cool Cup"

West Laurel Church, Laurel, celebrated "Operation Cool Cup" day as a way of emphasis for local and home missions. The church chose March 3, beginning the Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

Operation Cool Cup is an "in house" mission effort to provide basic groceries to transit families and local families in need of help in the Laurel area. The program originated with the WMU and was introduced to the church as a program by the deacons of West Laurel and has been in operation for over a year. Church members are asked to pick up an extra can or

package of non-perishable groceries when they grocery shop and bring it to the church for placing in the "cool cup locker" (a food pantry room in the church building designed for this use).

As a need is made known, members of the benevolence committee "shop" at the food pantry and carry the food to the needy individual or families. Operating out of the generosity of the church membership a number of needy families are helped throughout the year.

On the first Sunday in March the members of the church brought their cans and packages to the altar, offering up their use to the Lord by special dedicatory prayer at the close of the morning worship service.

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NEW AND USED

"Reach all young people" United Bible Society aim

NEW YORK, NY (ABS)—The American Bible Society is joining with its partners in the United Bible Societies organization, which is at work in more than 180 lands, in what UBS terms a "major advance program aimed at the next generation." The program is scheduled to begin in 1986.

The goal is to reach all young people with the Scriptures, from preschoolers up to those entering adulthood. Churches and Christian youth groups will be encouraged to participate.

When the General Committee of UBS, the policy-making arm of the partnership, met in Mexico recently, it invited each of the Bible Societies around the world, including ABS, to "become fully involved so that it can be a truly global campaign."

Staff Changes

Lowell Johnson has resigned as pastor of First Church, Vardaman, and has accepted the call as pastor of Macedonia Church, Brookhaven. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Janice, have one son.



Johnson

Lulu Church (Riverside) has called Mark Kelly as minister of youth. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Toy Kelly of Clarksdale, he is a student at Mississippi Delta Junior College.

Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, has called James Barron Pilgrim as pastor. At the time of his call, he was pastor at Tiplersville. He and his wife, the former Jean Mills, have one son.

Centers accepting summer reservations

NASHVILLE — Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers are accepting reservations for 1985 summer conferences.

Reservations should be sent to either Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770 or Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535-008.

The year-round centers offer conferences on youth ministry, Church Training, Sunday School, church media library, recreation, family ministry, church administration, church architecture, missions, student ministry, Christian life, and home and foreign missions.

Campers attending Ridgecrest can now camp at the new Creekside Campground. Tent space is \$26 per conference and trailer space is \$38. At Glorieta, the Western Town Campground is available for the same prices.

Reservations for the campgrounds should be made directly to the conference center.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- March 25 Vacation Bible School Growth Clinic; FBC, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
Preschool/Children/Youth Church Training Leader Blitz; FBC, Brookhaven; 7-9:30 p.m. (CT)
How to Make Adult Church Training Special; 7-9 p.m.; Sardis Lake BC, Sardis/Shady Grove BC, Ripley/Parkway BC, Houston/Lee Assn. Office. Tupelo (CT)
- March 26 Vacation Bible School Growth Clinic; FBC, McComb; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
Preschool/Children/Youth Church Training Leader Blitz; Temple BC, Hattiesburg; 7-9:30 p.m. (CT)
How to Make Adult Church Training Special; 7-9 p.m.; Gaston BC, Booneville/FBC, Coldwater/FBC, Holly Springs (CT)
- March 27 Vacation Bible School Growth Clinic; Ridgecrest BC, Jackson; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- March 28 Vacation Bible School Growth Clinic; FBC, Grenada; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
Preschool/Children/Youth Church Training Leader Blitz; FBC, Biloxi; 7-9:30 p.m. (CT)
How to Make Adult Church Training Special; 7-9 p.m.; FBC, Southaven/FBC, Amory/FBC, Corinth/Liberty BC, Pontotoc (CT)
- March 29 Vacation Bible School Growth Clinic; Calvary BC, Tupelo; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- March 29-30 State Handbell Festival; Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson; 6 p.m., 29th-2:30 p.m., 30th (CM)
- March 29-31 Leadership Training Conference; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 29th-Noon, 31st (SW)

Writers' workshop to feature Broadman seminar

The sixth annual Christian Writers' Grand Ole Workshop will be held in Nashville, Tenn., June 23-27. The workshop, held on the campus of Belmont College, is designed to help beginning writers, as well as experienced ones.

The workshop will feature a tour of the Baptist Sunday School Board building, where editorial staff of Broadman Press will give a mini-seminar on "From Manuscript to Published Book."

For more information, send a self-addressed envelope to John Warren Steen, director, 6511 Currywood Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

Morrison Heights will host Financial Freedom Seminar

Wayne Coleman of Round Rock, Tex., will conduct a Financial Freedom Seminar at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, March 24-26.

The schedule will be as follows: Sunday: 9:45-10:45 a.m.; 6:00-8:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday: 6:30-9:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. Preschool childcare will be provided.

"Forgiven" will sing at Northpark Missionary's mother dies

Forgiven will be in concert on Saturday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Center Court of Northpark Mall in Ridgeland.

Forgiven is a guitar duo. Forgiven Ministries of Jacksonville, Fla., began in 1982 when John Amberson and Mike Martin decided in this way to share their Christian testimonies. They have sung in churches and prisons, for coffee house ministries, and at music festivals.

Lausanne Committee planning for world meet

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (EP) — The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE) is staging a series of specialized consultations and conferences to prepare for the major International Congress on World Evangelization, to be held in 1989.

Mrs. Mamie Viverette of Union died March 3. Funeral services were held March 6 at First Baptist Church, Union, with Terrell Suggs officiating. Burial was in Union Cemetery.

Mrs. Viverette, 87, was the mother of Laverne (Mrs. C. W.) Applewhite, missionary to Sumatra, Indonesia, since 1956. She had been a lifelong resident of Union, and was a member of First Baptist Church.

She had served in all phases of Woman's Missionary Union work, in both local and county organizations. For many years, she taught young people in Sunday School.

Survivors in addition to her daughter include a son, Raymond Viverette, Odessa, Tex.; one sister; one brother; and six grandchildren.

Be not merely good; be good for something. — Henry David Thoreau

Thursday, March 21, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival Dates

Cleary Church (Rankin): March 31-April 4; Malcolm Richard, Baton Rouge, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music evangelist; special music by the Sanctuary Choir; Sun. at 10:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; during week at 7 p.m.; Kent Shirley, pastor.

Line Creek, Morton (Scott): March 28, 29 and 30; Riley Ainsworth, Little Yazoo, evangelist; Leavell Pruitt, Crystal Springs, music evangelist; services at 7 p.m.; James Chandler, pastor.

Crooked Creek (Lawrence): March 24-28; Mike Reid, pastor, Topeka Church, evangelist; Larry Davis, minister of music; Ray Hodges, pastor.

Oakdale, Brandon, (Rankin): March 31-April 3; Curtis Williams, McLaurin Heights, Pearl, evangelist; Susan Clark, minister of music and youth, Oakdale, music director; services 7 p.m. with special music or drama each night; revival will begin with "an old fashioned day" and dinner on the ground; Alan Kilgore, pastor.

Flora Church (Hinds-Madison): April 14-17; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; at 7:30 week nights; Joey Bennett, Th.D. candidate at New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Al Fennell, minister of music at First Church, Pompano Beach, Fla., music evangelist; J. Steve Jackson, pastor.

Names in the News

Mrs. William (Mary Lee) Bayne, member of First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, recently taught the home mission study book, *The Light Upon The Land*, at Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County.

Keith Edward Powell was ordained to the gospel ministry by Airport Church, Grenada, on Jan. 13. Paul Blanchard, pastor of Lakeview Church, Leland, delivered the charge to the candidate; Harry Sartain, pastor of Liberty Church, Carroll County, brought the charge to the church. Jimmy Hall, pastor at Airport, presented the certificate of ordination. Powell is pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Copiah County, and is a student at Mississippi College.

Homecomings

Bethel Church, Poplarville (Pearl River): April 14; Ralph Ford, minister of music, Central Church, McComb, guest speaker; Dan Finley, pastor. (Ford is a former minister of music at Bethel. He is to be graduated from New Orleans Seminary in May of this year.

Speak gently — 'tis a little thing, Dropped in the heart's deep well; The good, the joy that it may bring, Eternity shall tell. — Author Unknown

Salem Church, Collins: March 30-April 3; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; at 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Jim Slack, missionary to the Philippines, evangelist; Dan Hall, music director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, to direct music; James McLemore, pastor.

Valley Hill, Carroll-Montgomery: March 24-29; Sunday at 7 p.m.; weekdays, morning services at 11 and 7; guest evangelist, Eugene Dobbs, pastor, First, Philadelphia; Joseph Sansing, music director; Sue Avant, pianist; Rickey W. McKay, pastor.

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs: March 23-24; weekend revival; Leo Humphrey from New Orleans, with "Good News in Action," preaching; Ray Mears, music evangelist from Monroe, La., singer; Sat. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mike Pennock, pastor.

First Church, Yazoo City: March 24-27; Ralph Stone, pastor, Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, Tex., evangelist; Keith Longbotham, singer, songwriter, and guitarist from Hendersonville, Tenn., guest musician; Jim Yates, pastor; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Osyka (Pike): March 24-27; Steve Echols, pastor of Kentwood Church, Kentwood, La., speaker; Roger Banes, Magnolia, First, music; Bruce Rowell, pastor; services at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sun.; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; special activities to include prayer breakfast at 8 a.m. Sun. and Youth Pizza-Blast following the Sunday evening service.

Westwood, Meridian: March 24-29; Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Frank Harmon, pastor of First, Newton, evangelist; Marcus Peagler, minister of music at South Side Church, Meridian, singer; W. Buford Usry, pastor.

Four Mile Creek, Jackson County: March 24-29; 7 p.m. each night; revival speaker, Raymond Williams, pastor, Southside, Crestview, Fla.; music evangelist, Leon Westerhouse, Birmingham; Kenneth Goff, pastor.

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Just for the Record

"Drawn Together By His Love", a singles seminar dealing with the subject of relationships, will be hosted March 29 to 30 by Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. The guest speaker for the event will be Harold Ivan Smith of Kansas City, MO.

The seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday and will include a supper and child care. Saturday's schedule will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:45 p.m. The conference fee is \$10. Dianne Warren is minister with single adults at Main Street Church.

The Robert Holifields of Laurel left the United States March 1 to serve for a year as missions volunteers in The Gambia, West Africa. Members of First Church, Laurel, he is a dentist, and she is a dental office manager. The couple are serving under the Foreign Mission Board's auxiliary personnel program.

Oakdale Church, Rankin County, is planning a Marriage Enrichment Retreat for March 22-23 at Lake Tiak O'Khata. Bradley Pope of the Shepherd Staff, Jackson, will speak.



Stanton Church's Children's Church, Natchez, presented its first program on March 3 during the Sunday morning worship service. The program consisted of songs and scripture verses the children had learned. The children were then asked questions from the materials that had been presented to them.

Children's Church at Stanton began January 6 under the direction of Mary Lynn Purvis, the pastor's wife. "It has already been beneficial to the children in that the word is presented to them on their age level through songs, stories, prayer time, sharing time, and a time of giving of their tithes and offerings. It has also helped the parents to be able to be more attentive in the regular worship hour," explains one member.

Steve Purvis is pastor. The Purvises moved to Natchez from Emmanuel Church, Union in early November, 1984.

Missionary News

Vic and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil, are the parents of David Martin, born Feb. 4. They have just completed language study and may be addressed at 64000 Teresina, PI, Brazil. They are natives of Mississippi. He is from McComb, and she is from Kosciusko.

John M. Purl Jr. missionary to Ghana since 1982, resigned from missionary service Feb. 9. Stationed in Accra, he was treasurer of the Baptist Mission. A native of Mississippi, he was born in Kosciusko and considers McComb his hometown. He may be addressed at 1009 Northwest Ave., McComb, Miss. 39648.

Fanny Starns, missionary to Thailand, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 832, Bangkok, Thailand). She was born in Hattiesburg.

Bellevue to honor Pattersons Mar. 31

Bellevue Church, Route 4, Hattiesburg, will honor Bill and Debbie Patterson and their sons in the morning worship hour of March 31. The Pattersons have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as missionaries to Korea. They will be leaving in April for the mission field.

Patterson will preach during the morning service. His sister, Mrs. Cecilia LeBlanc, will present special music. There will be dinner on the ground following the morning service.

Bill Patterson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Patterson, are members of Bellevue.

There is no virtue in a promise not kept. — P. S. Ballanche

Moonie mailing blitz price tag \$10 million

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Approximately 300,000 ministers across the United States have received "a gift for you from some folks who care"—a packet of three video tapes and two books from the Unification Church.

Many of the pastors also are receiving personal follow-up visits from members of the group, disciples of Sun Myung Moon, known as "Moonies."

A Unification Church spokesman told the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board the budget for the effort, based on mailing lists purchased from other sources, was \$10 million. That figure correlates with an earlier HMB estimate that the packets cost \$30-\$35 each.

"This is an organized effort to enlist public support both for their church and for Rev. Moon (currently serving an 18-month prison term for failing to pay \$150,000 in personal income taxes)," said Gary Leazer of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department and a leading Southern Baptist authority on the Unification Church.

The Unification Church is arguing in the appeals process that the income belonged to the church and not to Moon personally and the case is a violation of the group's religious freedom.

The video tapes explain Unification theology on: the principles of creation, the fall of man, the purpose of the messiah, God's work through history and the second coming of Christ. The books are, *Outline of the Principle Level 4*, a 316-page book published in 1980 which expounds on Moon's basic theological work, *The Divine Principle*.

Songfest is planned at the Saenger

"Saturday Night at the Saenger," a community-oriented series of events devoted to providing free family entertainment for the Hattiesburg area, is once again presenting a "Christian Songfest" at the downtown Saenger Theater, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled to appear in the Saturday evening event are the Hub City Quartet, offering a blend of traditional and country gospel music, and Kinfolk, eight family members from Petal who perform contemporary Christian songs.

Also representing contemporary Christian styles will be Kim McGuffee, who was 1984's Miss Perry County, and Kimball Smiley and Friends, another Petal-based group. Dwayne White, a young blind vocalist and pianist, will add a touch of black gospel to the evening.

There will be no charge for admission to the "Songfest" according to the show's co-ordinator, Kurt Brautigam. The program is sponsored by the USM University Civitan Club.

ple; and God's Warning to the World, a 142-page book containing Moon's "message from prison," copyrighted in 1985.

"They don't understand why we (Southern Baptists) consider them to be a cult and I think it is their hope—a naive hope I feel—our pastors will use the video tapes in their churches and read the books and accept them as a valid Christian religion," he explained.

Some churches, primarily black and Hispanic congregations, apparently have responded favorably to the material and have accepted offers of help from Unification missionaries.

"They will do anything from custodial work to painting the church to holding Bible schools and teaching Sunday School classes," Leazer said.

Leazer explained Moon's theology holds that Jesus was a man—not God—who attained spiritual perfection and became a messiah and is the "spiritual" savior of mankind. However, Moon teaches, since Jesus was unable to complete God's purpose by marrying and producing "perfect" children, he cannot provide "physical salvation."

Physical salvation had to await the coming of a "Third Adam" or the "Lord of the Second Advent" to be born in Korea after 1918. Moon was born in Korea in 1920.

Most Southern Baptist pastors appear to be taking one of three approaches to the material: destroying it, erasing the three tapes and reusing them, or sending them to the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta 30367.

The interfaith witness department will use the films in training sessions with associations and state conventions and will send three blank tapes to those who send their Unification tapes in.

"Of course, we don't need 10,000 sets of these tapes," Leazer said.

Leazer cautions pastors against over reacting.

"One reason for this mass mailing is because the Unification Church has enough money to do anything it wants," he admitted. "But we need to remember there are only 2,000 to 4,000 fulltime members of the group in the United States."

"If you show any interest at all you can expect a personal visit but if you don't want the Moonies around you just say so and they'll leave."

From July 30 to Aug. 2, 1984 the International Conference for Clergy, an affiliate of the Unification Church, hosted 200 pastors—including at least six Southern Baptists—for a conference on Unification theology in Freeport, The Bahamas.

All expenses for the registrants, including airfare, were paid by the Unification Church. Expenses for food and lodging, but not airfare, were provided for spouses. The conference budget was rumored to be \$86,000 according to Norm Langston of the HMB interfaith witness department and one of the participants in the conference.

The emphasis now has shifted to regional conferences in such sites as Omaha, Neb., Tulsa, Okla., and Gatlinburg, Tenn., Leazer said. The HMB recommends pastors treat invitations to the conferences with caution. "If they go they should make up their own minds, keep a low profile at the conferences lest something they say be used to promote Unification causes, and take advantage of prior information before going."

The HMB has information on the Moonies, as well as other cults, available upon request.

Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.

When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch's statement that the elder Cato began at the age of eighty to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long. — W. Somerset Maugham

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Speakers wonder why . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Iuka; Milton Burd, minister of music and education at First Church, Cleveland; J. C. Renfro, director of missions for Rankin Association; Tommy Howard, minister of music at First, Leland; and Paul Harper, minister of music at First, Itta Bena.

Conference leaders

Ray F. Robbins, senior professor of New Testament at Mississippi College, led one of the eight conferences. His was on **The Doctrine of Christ**. W. O. Vaught, pastor emeritus of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., led a conference on **The Pastor as Bible Teacher**. **The Bible and Church Growth** was the conference title for Ron Lewis. And James L. Powell Jr., staff member with the Stewardship Commission in Nashville, led a conference on **God's Call to Give**. Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Amory, was the conference leader for **Sharing God's Word through Scripture Distribution**. James Fitch, staff member in the Growth Section at the Sunday School Board, had **Using the Growth Spiral for Growth in Bible Teaching and Evangelism**. Communicating the Gospel: though Local Television Programming was the subject for Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson. And Howard Ramsey led a conference on **Witness Training**.

Those presiding at the plenary sessions were Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists; Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School director for the Convention Board; and Chester Vaughn, program director.

The conference is sponsored each year by the Evangelism Department and the Sunday School Department. Next year's conference is scheduled for Feb. 3 to 6 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.



Ray F. Robbins, senior professor of New Testament at Mississippi College, leads a conference on The Doctrine of Christ.



Kathryn Barfield and Jimmy Boyd, both of First Church, Yazoo City, sing.



An ensemble presenting three new songs to the Evangelism-Bible Conference sings at First Church, Greenville. The members of the ensemble are, left to right, Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City; Teresa Harland, Greenville; Ann Colbert, Forest, who gave up her spot on the program for the presentation; Gaye Sikes, Yazoo City; Deanna Garletts, Mike Harland, and Byron Cutrer, all of Greenville; and Mike Smith, Jackson.



Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., preaches.



Edwin Sudduth of Brookhaven plays during the keyboard witness to start a session.



Eddie Keyser, Ole Miss student, accompanied himself on the guitar.



Mike Edwards, minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford, is featured in a solo part during the presentation of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. Lee Gordon, minister of music at Van Winkle Church, Jackson, directed.



Irene Martin, left, of Forest, accompanies an ensemble that is singing her composition, "The Desert Shall Blossom Like The Rose." Dot Pray of Jackson is at the organ; and Mera Hall of Jackson, a Baylor University student, plays the violin.

Baptist Record

- Life and Work: Love one another
- Uniform: Brought to trial
- Bible Book: Responses to Jesus

Responses to Jesus

By Bill R. Baker
Luke 11:14-12:12

Jesus was opposed because his message and manner were diametrically opposed to the message and manner of the Pharisees and scribes. This contrast and opposition is obvious in the lesson for today.

Jesus emphasized the truth of God whereas the opposers placed their emphasis on the traditions of men (vs. 37-38). Truth and tradition clashed when Jesus met the Pharisee. Even though the Son of God was present in his home, the Pharisee was far more concerned about the traditional view of hand-washing than the presence of truth.

Jesus emphasized inward purity, whereas the opposers emphasized outward purity (vs. 39-41). The good side of the Pharisee was the outside. God looks not upon the outward appearance but upon the heart. The Pharisees looked great on the outside but Jesus revealed that on the inside they were "full of ravening and wickedness." Unwilling to confess their condition the Pharisees were forced to confess their opposition.

Jesus emphasized receptivity of all biblical teaching, whereas the Pharisees emphasized selectivity of

certain biblical teaching. These religionists were tithing the small fragrant plant while totally ignoring the justice and love of God. Jesus does not dismiss the concept of tithing, but dismisses the concept that the tithe is the end of offering.

A person may comply with one regulation without being subject to total regulation. One cannot treat the Bible like a cafeteria line where he may pick and choose according to personal taste. All of biblical truth is to be received, not just certain aspects.

Jesus emphasized the theme of self-abasement, whereas the Pharisees emphasized the theme of self-exaltation (v. 43). The Pharisee really did not love God or the synagogue; it was the uppermost seats and the special recognition that he loved. There is contrast here between the Son of God who humbled himself and became obedient to the death of the cross and the Pharisee who knows nothing about humility.

Jesus emphasized self-examination, whereas the Pharisees emphasized self-justification (v. 44). In reality they were as graves which were not

marked or seen; consequently, men would walk over them and become ceremonially defiled. Jesus sent his followers forth as salt to purify and preserve, but the Pharisees were going forth to corrupt.

Jesus emphasized freedom in religion, whereas the lawyers emphasized bondage in religion (v. 46). They were placing great burdens on the backs of others in the name of religion and would not lift one finger to lighten the load.

There are other contrasts in the passage; however, the above will serve to illustrate that when Jesus appeared before the Pharisees and lawyers the contrasts were conspicuous — truth vs. tradition; inward vs. outward; receptivity vs. selectivity; humility vs. exaltation; self-examination vs. self-justification; freedom vs. bondage. These and other contrasts created the opposition; consequently, the scribes and Pharisees began "laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him" (v. 54).

Baker is pastor, First, Clinton.

Love one another

By James F. Yates
John 15:9-19

In this section of John's Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples to do three things. First, they are to abide in his love (v. 9). It was based on his love for them, the model of which was the Father's love for him. In their obedience as bearers of fruit (v. 8) they shall demonstrate their love to the Son and the Father.

This love (agape) involves one's absolute loyalty to its object. So we see in these words God's loyalty to his own and the demand of the same from them. To be loved by their Lord in the same way that his Father had loved him was an impelling reason for their abiding in him. Keeping his commandments, following the directions which they had received from him, assures such abiding in him (v. 10).

His motive for exhorting his followers in this way was two-fold. First, by heeding it, his joy would be in them. The joy which he had in his obedience to the Father in all things, including even the cross, would be in them, shared by them. Second, that would mean that their own joy would be made full (v. 11). However hard the Christian way may seem at times, it is the way of joy.

There is always a joy in doing the right thing. The Christian is a person of joy. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than long faces and gloomy dispositions.

A second exhortation was that they love one another. In verse 10 Jesus had spoken of his "commandment." Now he specified it as love for one another

even as he loved them (v. 12). He urged them to keep on loving one another, to make loving one another their life practice. The model for their loving one another was his love for them.

We are sent out into the world to love one another. Sometimes we live as if we were sent into the world to compete with one another, or even to quarrel with one another. But the Christian is sent into the world to live in such a way that he shows what is meant by genuine love. Christ will soon prove his love for them on the cross (v. 13). They are to prove theirs for him as they lose themselves in his service. He will die as their substitute. In turn, they are to be his substitutes in proclaiming the gospel.

Then Jesus announced to the eleven a new relationship (v. 15). He tells them that he does not call them slaves any more; he calls them friends. The perfect tense expresses a permanent state of a new dignity conferred upon the disciples. Now that is a saying which would be even greater to those who heard it for the first time than it is to us.

The title "doulos," the slave, the servant of God was no title of shame; it was a title of the highest honor. Moses was the slave of God; so was Joshua; so was David. It is a title which Paul counted it an honor to use; and so did James. The greatest men in the past had been proud to be called the slaves, the servants of God. And Jesus says: "You are no longer slaves; you are friends." Through Christ they will know the mind of the Father, because

he had shared with them everything the Father had told him.

His third exhortation was that they "go and bear fruit." This rested upon the fact that he had chosen them and appointed them for that purpose (v. 16). This new relationship which had been established is not merely a privilege to be enjoyed; it is a responsibility to be borne.

God does the choosing. He takes the initiative in salvation but, of course, man must respond favorably to it. And he elected them not only for themselves but that they might be instruments in his service.

What is fruit bearing? This question lends itself to various interpretations. Some see it as godliness or holy living. Others interpret it as winning souls to Christ, while still others identify fruit bearing with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, 23. Regardless, the fruit which they gathered would be unto eternal life. In his efforts the Christian has the promised infinite resources of the Father (v. 16b).

Because of what is coming upon Jesus' followers, it is all the more important that they should love one another (v. 17). For they will be rejected and hated by the world. If, therefore, they do not love each other, to whom shall they turn? This question is applicable to every Christian generation.

The world will hate the Christian. But he has the satisfaction of knowing that it hated Jesus before it hated him (v. 18). If he were of the world, the world would love its own (v. 19).

Brought to trial

By W. Levon Moore
John 18:33-37; 19:6-11, 14-16

This week we begin a four-session study of John 18-21, which deals with Jesus' trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection appearances to Thomas and to Peter.

The lesson for today concerning Jesus' trial is based on John 18:33-37; 19:6-11, 14-16. Let us examine the circumstances of Jesus' trial as outlined in these passages. Space will not permit the full detailing of the story of Jesus' trial, but note the following elements:

I. Inquisitiveness (18:33-37)

Jesus has been brought before Pilate. Immediately after entering the Judgment Hall, Pilate asked Jesus a question. It is not clear whether Pilate wanted information concerning what Jesus thought about himself, or whether he was seeking to implicate Jesus and trap him by his words. The question was, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" (18:33). In response to Jesus' answer, which was in the form of a question, Pilate asked a second question, "Am I a Jew?" Jesus had simply wished to know if the first question was due to Pilate's own impression, or whether someone else had told Pilate about this claim.

Pilate seemed to be saying, "Am I a Jew, that I should be familiar with the implications of all these charges?" Then in a straightforward manner, he asked the third question, "What hast thou done?" (18:35). This was an attempt by Pilate to determine the full extent of the charges.

In reply to this, Jesus made a lengthy and involved statement concerning his kingdom, "My kingdom is not of this world: If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (18:36). Pilate's next question was, "Art thou a king then?" (18:37). Since Jesus would not specifically claim to be the King of the Jews, Pilate wished to know whether or not Jesus claimed to be a king of any description.

Pilate seemed to be quite cunning in his questions. Jesus was even more masterful with his answers. He replied to Pilate, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice" (18:37). Pilate countered with another question, "What is Truth?" (18:38).

II. Innocence (18:38)

Without waiting for an answer to that question, Pilate went out again to the Jews and declared the innocence of the Galilean. He said firmly, "I find in him no fault at all" (18:38). In his heart, Pilate knew that Jesus was not guilty of the charges made against

him. Thus, he declared Jesus to be innocent.

III. Insistence (19:6-11)

In his attempt to set Jesus free, Pilate scourged Jesus, and the soldiers platted a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a purple robe around his shoulders. With these mock trappings of royalty upon him, Jesus was sent back to the Jewish leaders.

Immediately upon seeing him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him" (19:6). Just before the Passover, Pilate again attempted to present Jesus to the Jews as their king. Again, they cried, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him" (19:15). Said Pilate, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priest replied, "We have no king but Caesar" (19:15). Pilate delivered Jesus unto them to be crucified. John, the writer of the gospel record states, "And they took Jesus, and led him away" (19:16).

Thus, the trial of Jesus ended. The insistence of the mob overpowered the Roman governor, and Jesus was turned over to the Jewish authorities. Because of the mockery, injustice and cowardice evidenced by the Roman governor throughout the entire episode, one cannot but wonder, who was really on trial, Jesus or Pilate?

Moore is director of missions, Atlanta Associations.

Creationist teacher denied honor

HUDSONVILLE, Mich. (EP) — High school science teacher David Bolhuis was denied consideration for being selected as the "State High School Science Teacher of the Year" after the Michigan Science Teacher's Association found out that Bolhuis taught creationism in his classroom. According to the Freedom Council, Bolhuis had been a top contender for the award until the Association learned of his belief in creationism.

Baptist Record

163 3-14 00
005-DTM HAROLD
BENNETT HAROLD ST
901 COMMERCE ST
EXEC COMM SBC
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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